



글 이대성
그림 animato

KING SHURA

BOOK 03

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King Shura

(수라왕)

by

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Synopsis

Cho Ryu Hyang was good at math from a young age.

When he enrolled into the The Theoretical Maths and Martial Arts School, the teacher, Jo Gi Chun, recognized Cho Ryu Hyang's talent immediately and took him in.

One day, Cho Ry Hyang found a book in the library known as the "Moon Edge Flower Algorithm Magic".

Through the book, he met a legendary individual known as Zhuge Liang...

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Chapter 101. The Move Of The Four Powers

It was early morning.

No Jin Nyung stood up from his spot as he stretched his tired body.

As he stretched, he took a look at Cho Ryu Hyang right next to him.

‘He seems to have slept more than before?’

Cho Ryu Hyang usually woke up at a regular time every day.

He would wake up once he got enough sleep for himself.

But something was different today.

‘Is he tired?’

No Jin Nyung didn’t think much of it at first.

He only felt that something was wrong when his master didn’t wake up even after noon.

Rumble-

Around the time when the No Jin Nyung's stomach began to rumble,

No Jin Nyung, who didn't really know what to do, ended up turning a little mechanism above Cho Ryu Hyang's bed.

Huu-

With a small shake, some invisible presence that had blocked No Jin Nyung beforehand disappeared..

No Jin Nyung carefully walked right beside Cho Ryu Hyang's bed, and turned the mechanism back to its original spot.

Whoosh-

A hot wind surrounded the general area, and formed a circular barrier around Cho Ryu Hyang.

It was a sort of a defensive formation Cho Ryu Hyang set up before sleeping.

‘I never get tired of seeing this.’

The first time the heir showed him this formation, No Jin Nyung was surprised out of his mind.

There was a way to separate the inside and the outside completely, just by fiddling with a simple mechanism?

Moreover, not even he, a harmonious expert, was able to sense the formation.

Only when he focused his senses to the utmost was he able to sense that “something” was there.

If an outsider unknowingly went in, he would be trapped inside an invisible prison.

“Well.....”

No Jin Nyung frowned once he deactivated the formation and neared the bed.

He could see that the heir’s face was slightly contorted.

“Eh? Is he having a nightmare?”

Should he wake him up?

Or should he let him sleep?

As he contemplated on what he should do, a small moan escaped Cho Ryu Hyang’s lips.

“Mmm.....”

Cho Ryu Hyang seemed extremely painful.

No Jin Nyung decided to stop thinking, and just wake up his master.

However.

Chichichi-

“Uee?”

No Jin Nyung moved back, and shook off the electricity that coiled up his arm.

Chuaa-!

Electricity dissipated into the air, causing No Jin Nyung’s hair to stand, but No Jin Nyung was unable to pay attention to that.

A living person outputting electricity?

Was this something that even made sense?

No Jin Nyung was extremely shocked, but he had no time to dwell on his surprise. A warning bell was going off in his mind.

“Lim bro, you there?”

[.....What the heck was that?]

No Jin Nyung looked somewhere outside the defensive formation as he heard the question from the leader of the Mara’s Wind Division.

“Looks like something happened to the heir. We’ll need a doctor.”

As soon as No Jin Nyung finished his sentence, a Lim Hak Gyum emerged from the darkness.

“I sent my subordinate. The doctor should be here soon. May I go in as well?”

“Shoot, wait a second.”

No Jin Nyung disabled the formation, and let Lim Hak Gyum come in.

“You should take a look as well, Lim bro. I’m dumb, so I can’t really see what’s wrong here..”

Lim Hak Gyum nodded as he listened to No Jin Nyung talk to him as if he was some old man next door.

He had felt this multiple times before, but this No Jin Nyung was extremely immature, contrary to his power.

Because of that, he had been distrustful of the man before, but it seemed that his worries were needless.

No Jin Nyung's face was filled with fear and desperation right now.

The man honestly was worried of Cho Ryu Hyang.

Lim Hak Gyum made a serious face, and put his hand on Cho Ryu Hyang.

Then.....

Chichichi-

Lim Hak Gyum got struck by the electricity and got repelled back.

But because he had been protecting himself beforehand, the damage he took in was less than No Jin Nyung's.

“Mm.....”

The electricity was stronger than he had expected.

Lim Hak Gyum quickly used his inner energy to dissipate the electricity in his body.

“What do you think, Lim bro? Why is he sleeping for so long? Is he just tired? Even so, I never heard of anyone shooting electricity while sleeping, so what’s going on?”

Lim Hak Gyum, instead of responding, carefully dissipated the electricity inside him. He let out a deep breath, and responded.

“There was a time when the heir became like this in the past. But he didn’t show such a violent reaction like this.....”

No Jin Nyung became confused when Lim Hak Gyum spoke uncertainly.

“Was this before I was there?”

“Yes.”

“How did he wake up then?”

“He woke up a few days after the Pope took a look at him.”

“Really? Then we just have to wait? That’s simple.”

No Jin Nyung smiled, as if he was happy with the unexpectedly simple method to cure his master.

But Lim Hak Gyum shook his head.

“We can’t be sure. After all, the pope himself was there.”

“Do we have to get the pope here then?”

“That’s quite difficult as well. There’s still a month till he would come.”

“Hm.....”

No Jin Nyung began to stroke his chin with a frown.

He was beginning to do something that didn’t suit him at all, which was to think.

Lim Hak Gyum made a difficult face as well.

The current situation outside wasn’t very good.

Just the fact alone that the Alliance and the Black Moon Guild got into an alliance was problematic.

‘But.....’

Unexpectedly enough, the heir was quite calm about this.

It was almost as if he had expected this.

But Lim Hak Gyum knew that the heir did not know anything about this.

Right then.

Vuun vun vun-

A purple energy began to flow from the heir’s body.

“What’s this?”

When No Jin Nyung took a look at what was inside, he found a set of bracelets that emitted a strange light.

They were bracelets that Cho Ryu Hyang received on the way to Sichuan, the bracelets that served to repress the Shura Environment.

This bracelet was currently trembling whilst emitting a purple light.

“The heir really has a lot of strange toys.”

No Jin Nyung looked at the bracelet with an interested face, then turned to Lim Hak Gyum.

He didn't know what to do.

Bang-!

Right then, Un Hui opened the door ran in with a pale face.

Without saying a word, he ran towards Cho Ryu Hyang, and checked if his master was doing alright.

“Why are you here?”

No Jin Nyung looked at Un Hui distastefully.

Un Hui didn't respond, and looked over Cho Ryu Hyang.

“I heard something happened to the master from the doctor.”

“Man, word flies fast. But what happened to the doctor?”

“He's coming. What happened?”

Cho Ryu Hyang's sweating body and his frown clearly indicated that he was in a lot of pain. But Un Hui couldn't figure out what was wrong.

Therefore, Un Hui stretched his hand out.

Chichichi-

Un Hui flinched back the moment he touched Cho Ryu Hyang's forehead.

He frowned as he felt the electricity flowed inside him, but he quickly redirected it all into the wall next to him.

“Just what is.....”

“Uhehehehe! I knew that would happen to you.”

Un Hui frowned, and quickly turned away to Lim Hak Gyum when No Jin Nyung laughed at him.

This guy really was useless.

“What happened?”

“I don't know. But one thing I know for sure is that not even

doctors would know much about this.”

The doctor rushed in as Un Hui’s face began to contort.

Un Hui took a look at the doctor for a second, hesitated for a second, then turned to Lim Hak Gyum with a downcast face.

Lim Hak Gyum seemed to have thought the same thing, and just nodded lightly.

“I, I will take a look, then.”

“.....”

The doctor became confused for a second because of the silence in the room, but eventually went on to try to see what was wrong with Cho Ryu Hyang.

And.....

Chichichi-!

“Ahhh!”

Un Hui grabbed the doctor as the man flew away, and quickly let the electricity out.

“Are you alright?”

“Hak, hak!”

The doctor looked at Cho Ryu Hyang, and then at Un Hui several times with a surprised face.

“Apologies, but please understand. We just wanted to see if you were able to do anything.”

No Jin Nyung sighed as he watched the doctor nod dumbly.

“Let’s just leave him be. We can’t do anything.”

Un Hui nodded with a complicated face.

The moment he recovered, his master got in a bad condition.

At that moment, he noticed the bracelets in No Jin Nyung’s hand.

“Why do you have that?”

“This? You know what it is?”

If Un Hui remembered correctly, these bracelets were given to Cho Ryu Hyang by Gongson Ahri.

‘Wasn’t it the thing that the Pope wanted to hand over?’

What seemed to be a normal bracelet in the past was now letting out a purple light.

It was almost as if it was asking to be used.

‘Come to think of it, the Pope wears a similar set of bracelets as well.’

The bracelets definitely must do something, seeing that even the Pope wears it.

After thinking for a moment, Un Hui snatched away the bracelets from No Jin Nyung.



“There is something that I would like to ask you, chief Lim Hak Gyum.”

“Speak.”

“How is the current situation outside?”

Lim Hak Gyum frowned.

“Not good.”

Lim Hak Gyum refrained himself from saying ‘it wouldn’t be strange if they made their move.’

He realized that he could accidentally jinx it.

“Is it fine for the master to be staying like this for a long period of time?”

Lim Hak Gyum shook his head.

It wouldn’t be strange at all if the four powers attacked now.

There was no way for them to be able to fend off the attacks from the four powers.

It looked like misfortunes liked to pile up together.

[Chief, there’s trouble!]

Lim hak Gyum frowned at the urgent voice from his subordinate.

“What happened?”

[The four powers are moving. They're making their way here right now.]

“What?”

What kind of a coincidence was this?

Lim Hak Gyum made a dumb face.

Un Hui looked at him with a cold gaze.

“Things don't seem to be going well.”

“.....Yes. The four powers made their move.”

When Lim Hak Gyum shot out the words with a disgusted face, Un Hui calmly opened his mouth.

“Is there a way to stop them?”

Lim Hak Gyum shook his head.

“It looked like the Heir had a special plan in mind, but I didn't get anything from him just yet.”

This was troublesome.

Like this, they would have to give up on establishing the Sichuan branch.

But doing that would be extremely bad.

Just leaving behind all the things they put into making this branch was a problem in itself, but then the one thing that mattered even more than that was their pride.

Their pride would be severely damaged if the four powers were allowed to take this place.

Their enemies were probably coming because they knew that, and because of that, there was no way they could retreat.

They had to protect this place with their life.

While Lim Hak Gyum thought this, Un Hui turned to Lim Hak Gyum's subordinate.

“Where is the enemy?”

[.....]

When the subordinate looked at Lim Hak Gyum with a troubled face, Un Hui turned to Lim Hak Gyum as well.

“You can tell him.”

Once Lim Hak Gyum gave his permission, the subordinate opened his mouth.

[They passed Jizhu, and are heading here right now. It would take them about half a day to get here.]

Un Hui became confused.

The way the subordinate worded the sentence was a little strange.

“Are they moving together?”

[Yes. The four powers are moving as a single group.]

“.....!”

Lim Hak Gyum and Un Hui were surprised out of their minds.

They knew the four powers would ally together, but they didn't think the powers would make it this obvious.

“They're going all out.”

Un Hui's face turned even colder.

“Would you help me wake up the master?”

“How?”

Chiruru-

Un Hui held up the bracelets, and spoke.

“It would work with this.”

He was almost certain that this would work.

He just remembered what Gongson Chun Gi said about these bracelets in the past.

‘He said it was a tool that could be used to prevent one's powers from going berserk.’

Right now, there was some kind of a power that was going berserk in Cho Ryu Hyang.

They just had to suppress that power.

“Are you confident?”

Un Hui nodded.

He stretched out his hands, and grabbed Cho Ryu Hyang's arm.

Pachichichi-!

A huge amount of electricity went up Un Hui's arm.

Un Hui's arms were screaming with pain, but he didn't even flinch.

He just became calmer than ever, and put on the bracelets on Cho Ryu Hyang's arm.

And.....

For the first time, something changed.

Notes:

Baek Mu Ryang

태극검황



Chapter 102. Nightmare

Koom-Kugugugung-!

The surrounding area fell apart with a loud noise.

At the same time, the floor shook dangerously.

Pian Mu blinked.

Cho Ryu Hyang's Formless Formation was finally beginning to make it's move.

But Pian Mu wasn't surprised or confused at all.

He simply smiled casually as he slowly observed the changes.

He was trying to find something.

He then walked over the the center of the formation where the most amount of energy was condensed and sat down comfortably.

“Kuhehe, this elder will personally teach you how weak your attacks are in front of me.”

“.....”

Cho Ryu hyang didn't respond.

No, he couldn't respond.

In order to create a formation inside a formation, he needed to create an extremely complicated equation.

An equation that couldn't logically be handled by a human being.

He had to do the impossible.

As he continuously drew several strange shapes on the floor, he ceaselessly solved something in his head.

Then, in the middle of wandering in the mountain of equations, Cho Ryu Hyang paused.

His eyes widened.

Someone had suddenly come into his mind.

'Teacher.....'

The first man who managed to create a formation inside a formation, with his own body at that, was Cho Ryu Hyang's teacher, Jo Gi Chun.

Cho Ryu Hyang's body trembled at the thought of his teacher.

He looked down at the equations he had created on the ground with a huge frown.

That frown soon turned to amazement the more he looked at the floor.

And... a different feeling arose apart from his amazement.

It was sadness.

“Ha..... haha.”

Cho Ryu Hyang looked down for a second and laughed tiredly.

He had just realized how great of a person Jo Gi Chun was.

‘You were able to solve such an equation in such an urgent time?’

The equation that Jo Gi Chun used for his last formation.

When Cho Ryu Hyang looked over that equation, he had trembled from awe.

Jo Gi Chun was prepared to die from the very beginning.

He was trying his best to protect his disciple from the very beginning.

A formation within a formation wasn't something that could ever be created by a human.

A human would die when trying to create one.

“What the hell? Kid, did you go crazy or something?”

Pian Mu became confused when Cho Ryu Hyang suddenly began to laugh.

He didn't know why Cho Ryu Hyang had suddenly turned weird.

“Should I punch you awake or something before we start?”

Cho Ryu Hyang flinched at Pian Mu's voice, and smiled.

“.....Ah, I had forgotten about you. Don't worry. Everything's going according to plan.”

Cho Ryu Hyang lifted his head. His eyes had turned red.

At the same time, cold air blew in.

“.....Hoh?”

It was intense killing intent that caused one’s skin to crawl.

The amount of rage that emanated from Cho Ryu Hyang caused Pian Mu to smile.

He was very familiar with this kind of rage.

“A painful memory, huh?”

Cho Ryu Hyang slowly nodded and shot out several words.

“Thanks to you.”

“Hehe. Good. Very good. This will be fun.”

Pian Mu’s eyes got filled with intense joy.

“You see. I’m not a person who can’t get his hands tied over here by the likes of you. Last warning: stop here.”

Pian Mu’s lips twitched several times, then he burst into a laughing fit.

“Kuhahaha! Just how could humans be this arrogant? You still have something to show me? Sure, show it to me then. I’ll take

anything you throw at me.”

“I’ll give you just that.”

Chuaa-

Cho Ryu Hyang erased all the equations that he previously drew on the floor.

He then tied his hair into a ponytail and smiled bitterly.

“This is a life I attained due to the sacrifice of my teacher. I cannot waste such a thing here.”

“Kekeke, a human’s life is like those of a bug anyway. Do you honestly think your life is worth anything?”

“You’ll see.”

Cho Ryu Hyang became enraged at himself as he spoke.

He had complained to himself how much his life was worth all the time, but it seemed he was actually being proud of it.

He had just gotten this life thanks to the sacrifice of others, didn’t he?

Even his teacher, Jo Gi Chun, died for him.

For him, who had no talents nor strength, his teacher had to sacrifice himself.

‘I have to live.’

Cho Ryu Hyang realized why he had to try to survive.

‘My life is worth literally tonnes of gold.’

Cho Ryu Hyang, now that he realized the worth of his life, put his hands to.

“Do you know the last thing my teacher had taught me?”

“Who knows? Does it relate to whatever you’re doing now?”

“Of course it does. This is my teacher’s formation, after all.”

A formation within a formation.

If one wanted to create that, one would have to have a very strong nucleus for the formation.

Something that wouldn’t break under any amount of pressure.

‘My teacher used his life as the nucleus, but.....’

He couldn’t afford to do that.

Because of that, he decided to take a different approach.

After all, he had something that his teacher did not have at the time right now.

Cho Ryu Hyang took a deep breath and cleared his head.

‘I cannot die.’

Cho Ryu Hyang was planning on adding a new formation that was completely different from the current one right now.

Right then.

Kururu-

With a strange sound, the earth split apart, and hot steam began to blow out from it.

A smell of sulfur came from the steam.

Pian Mu looked down at the floor with a smile.

“Kuhahaha! Do you think you can get out of this alive, boy?”

“You should worry about yourself.”

A ball of light began to gather between Cho Ryu Hyang’s hands.

He was combining the powers of the Moon Edge Blade Technique and the Shura Environment.

Pian Mu’s eyes shone when he saw that ball of light.

It was something that had injured him before.

It would be a lie to say that he wasn’t interested in it.

‘As expected.....’

Pian Mu narrowed his eyes.

He could see what it was the moment he took a look at it.

Two powers with different properties.

The force that resulted from the extreme amount of resistance.

It was something that was powerful enough to destroy anything in the world.

‘It’s too dangerous for a single human to have.’

Pian Mu was completely enamored by the energy in Cho Ryu Hyang’s hands.

Meanwhile, Cho Ryu Hyang carefully planted the ball of energy in the floor.

‘This is my solution, teacher.’

Cho Ryu Hyang had the weapon known as martial arts, which was something that Jo Gi Chun did not have.

And this one thing would be the one to change everything.

Kuaaa-!

Cho Ryu Hyang quickly moved back after planting the energy.

Pian Mu, however, did not move at all.

He simply made a face of intense joy and enjoyment.

He was curious of what the kid was going to do.

The reason why he did not move was because of his pride.

Although he only had half his power, it would be more than enough to deal with anything the kid threw at him.

The kid seemed to have moved outside the formation at about this time.

He could chase the boy, but he didn't.

‘That just wouldn't be fun.’

He wouldn't be able to make the boy feel defeated if he did that.

Pian Mu was about to make the boy beg for his little life at his feet.

The injury that he had sustained from the boy before was already completely healed.

His self-recovery truly was outstanding.

Pian Mu was definitely no human.

‘But still, having a human injure me was surprising.’

Pian Mu did not move, even while seeing the sea of lava come at him.

The sea of lava, the moment it touched Pian Mu, scattered away.

Just his presence alone was able to inflict such a large effect on the surroundings.

“Now, let’s break it.”

Pian Mu unsealed the power he had repressed inside him.

Dududu-

The area that Pian Mu controlled began to expand.

Whatever touched his zone simply ripped apart to bits.

The force that came from the zone was so large, in fact, it was so large that it seemed to be capable of destroying even thunders.

“Kuhahaha!”

Pian Mu laughed in joy.

This was Pian Mu's real strength.

The power of pure destruction, hindered by nothing.

The formation began to distort greatly.

At the same time,

The formation began to contract.

Kuun-

When the edges of the formation and Pian Mu's area came into contact, a huge amount of pressure was exerted on Pian Mu's body.

Pian Mu frowned.

But soon, that frown turned into a grin.

“Pretty good.....”

But this wasn't enough.

Once Pian Mu exerted a bit of strength, the energy that had been pressuring him was suddenly pushed away.

“Kekeke.....”

Pian Mu’s area stretched out once again.

And in the end, the formation was not able to take the energy from Pian Mu and broke with a bang.

At once, Pian Mu’s senses got widened.

“Kuhahaha! Is this all, child?”

[Of course not.]

The kid’s voice came from somewhere.

Pian Mu searched for Cho Ryu Hyang for a second, then he smiled.

“You, you bastard.....”

There was a giant stone buddha statue in front of him.

A statue so large, that Pian Mu actually had to bend backwards to see its face.

And on its shoulder, there was Cho Ryu Hyang, who was staring down at him.

Looking at Cho Ryu Hyang's relaxed pose made Pian Mu's eyes spark with rage.



“.....Who the fuck told you to look down at me?”

Cho Ryu Hyang looked down at Pian Mu and smiled.

“The formation begins now.”

Once the formation breaks, the next one would begin.

The formation from the beginning was only there as a catalyst for the other one.

This was the last teaching Jo Gi Chun gave Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘Chain Formation (連環陳).’

Cho Ryu Hyang thought up of his teacher’s face, then slowly stood up.

“Time to get punished, Pian Mu.”

“.....You will not die an easy death. You made me extremely angry.”

“Whatever.”

Pian Mu gripped his pestle with so much force, that veins started to pop out of his hands.

Cho Ryu Hyang ignored this completely and made a smashing motion with his hand.

“Nn?”

The giant buddha followed Cho Ryu Hyang’s movements and smashed down at the spot where Pian Mu was.

Pian Mu’s enraged eyes turned to that of surprise at that time.

Kuaaaaang-!

The giant stone buddha moved with unimaginable speed.

“So you dodged.”

Pian Mu barely managed to teleport not too far away. He looked at Cho Ryu Hyang with eyes filled with suspicion.

“What the hell did you.....”

A single fist was as big as a mountain.

It was not easy to dodge.

And it seemed that the buddha wasn’t made of normal stone, either.

Seeing how the fist that smashed the ground was shining with a blue light, it seemed that it was made of the Blue Hard Stone,

which was said to be stronger than steel itself.

Pian Mu was trying extremely hard to understand what the hell was going on.

However, when Cho Ryu Hyang made his move, Pian Mu was unable to think anymore.

The moves executed by Cho Ryu Hyang this time was much, much more complicated than before.

“Shura Environment, First Chapter, Eight Line. Chasing Lightning Kick.”

Cho Ryu Hyang kindly explained the name of his move while executing it.

He lightly jumped up and kicked multiple times.

There was a frightening amount of energy that was stored within his toes, and this effect got transferred to the buddha as well.

Vuun vuun vuun-

The stone buddha imitated Cho Ryu Hyang's actions.

And on the toes of the buddha, there was a frightening amount of

red energy that condensed into that spot.

Pian Mu turned pale when he saw just how much energy there was on the buddha.

This was the beginning of his nightmare.

Chapter 103. Ju Ho Yu Moves

“How interesting. You figured out something about the heir of the church?”

“Yes. Getting ahold of the information was harder than I had thought, but it was worth it.”

“Where did the information come from?”

“Surprisingly enough, the information came from the church itself.”

“Hoh? So even the church, which had been famous for being so unified, is going through internal strife?”

“It looks like it.”

“Oh boy. Looks like this Gongson Chun Gi really wasn’t much. How would you even be able to conquer the world without even being able to take care of your own home ground?”

Ju Ho Yu nodded when Chuk Gye Gwang made a disappointed face.

“It looks like the rumors were greatly exaggerated.”

“Perhaps..... But it wouldn’t mean to let our guard down. Even

the Night Emperor was afraid of the Pope, and from my observations, the Night Emperor was the real thing.”

General Chuk Gye Gwang looked at Ju Ho yu uncomfortably.

“Well, that’s that. What’s going on with the next plan?”

“Making the Church and the Four Powers fight each other was successful, but right now, we need to assist the church.”

“Huh? We need to assist the church?”

“Yes. Right now, the church does not have enough power to stop the Four Powers. In order to achieve a proper balance in power, we need to help the church.”

Ju Ho Yu’s eyes shone.

“But nothing is free in this world. If there’s something that we can take from this, we need to take as much as we can.”

“Are we going to do a trade with them?”

“Right. I’m planning on meeting this heir of theirs.”

“you’re going to do it personally? Isn’t that too dangerous?”

“I believe it would be worth taking the risk.”

“Really? Isn’t he just a child though? Is there anything we can take from this child? Do you actually think a kid who relies on his teacher’s fame can even do anything?”

Ju Ho Yu smiled.

“It would be bad to underestimate the boy. He was the one who took down Gal Mun Hyuk before I even noticed.”

Chuk Gye Gwang finally began showing some interest.

“Hoh? So that kid was the one who made Gal Mun Hyuk into a poor beggar?”

“Yes. In just 10 days, the child completely destroyed Gal Mun Hyuk’s forces and took over the salt market.”

“Ten days.....”

After calculating something for a second, Chuk Gye Gwang narrowed his eyes.

“So that child is a tiger cub.”

“Yes. He is already dominating the salt market. The merchants

just come to him.”

“The balance of power had already been broken. That much is obvious. The Church really did earn a lot this time; however, we lost quite a bit in return.”

Chuk Gye Gwang put on a bitter face. On the other hand, Ju Ho Yu shook his head.

“But in doing that, the Church lost something quite important.”

Chuk Gye Gwang made a confused face.

“What in the world did they lose?”

“The child known as the heir was exposed far too much. All the work they did to hide the kid is now useless.”

Chuk Hye Gwang noticed what Ju Ho Yu was trying to imply and grinned.

“I see, we get the chance to get rid of the Church’s future. This isn’t so bad.”

“Right. But the Four Powers made their move first. They have been waiting for far too long.”

“Indeed. They waited too long.”

The Four Powers were strong enough to even make the Imperial Palace be wary.

However, so far the Powers were moving according to the expectations of the Palace.

Ju Ho Yu tightly wore his clothes as if he was suffering from the cold. Like this, he looked down the hill he was standing on.

Behind him was Tai Gonggong, who was currently looking at Ju Ho Yu with a discontent face.

“Do you really have to do this? I don’t get why you need to go through so much danger.”

Ju Ho Yu smiled.

“I need to see the heir myself.”

“Aah, how reckless. The dogs of the Martial World will soon overrun this place to destroy the Church. Not even I can protect you then.”

“Don’t worry, this will be quick.”

Tai Gonggong did not become calmed with just this.

“Yeah, say you actually managed to pull off everything quick, but there’s still one thing that doesn’t make sense. Mind if I ask?”

“No, I don’t.”

“Why did we come alone? This is the entirety of the reinforcement? Aren’t you putting too much confidence in me?”

There would be many Harmonious Experts within the force of the Four Powers.

And there would be many peak experts as well.

Not even Tai Gonggong could manage to take them all.

He wasn’t Gongson Chun Gi after all.

Ju Ho Yu shook his head after listening to Tai Gonggong calmly.

“You seem to be misunderstanding something.”

“Misunderstanding?”

“Yes. The one who would help the Church this time is just me.”

“What?”

Ju Ho Yu pointed at himself, and opened his mouth.

“I can balance everything just by myself.”

He didn't bother finishing the sentence by saying “until both sides completely run out of power....”

But Tai Gonggong didn't know exactly what Ju Ho Yu was trying to say. Because of this, he made a confused face.

The man never exaggerated anything, and Tai Gonggong knew that the man was speaking the truth.

Because he knew that, Tai Gonggong could only lick his lips.

“Fine. If you're a man, you should have at least that much pride in yourself. But how are you going to convince the Demon Church that you would actually be useful in battle?”

“You'll see.”

Ju Ho Yu began to walk down the hill with a confident smile.

Under him was the Sichuan Branch of the Church.

Un Hui looked carefully at Cho Ryu Hyang.

Then, he lightly put his hand on Cho Ryu Hyang's chest.

“Eh?”

No Jin Nyung, who had been watching from afar, let out a surprised gasp and put his hand on Cho Ryu Hyang's shoulder.

“There's no electricity?”

Lim Hak Gyum nodded as well.

Right then, Cho Ryu Hyang's body began to tremble violently, and a white smoke began to come out of the boy's nose.

Un Hui, No Jin Nyung, and Lim Hak Gyum all simultaneously moved back a step.

The white smoke bunched up in midair and with a small pop, it fell on Cho Ryu Hyang's stomach.

“.....W, what the hell is that?”

No Jin Nyung stuttered as he looked at the rabbit on Cho Ryu Hyang's stomach.

The rabbit with a small green leaf on his belly.

That rabbit was currently lying down, huffing tiredly.

The moment Un Hui laid his eyes on the rabbit, he became enraged.

“You!”

Un Hui knew that rabbit far too well.

After all, he had experienced the rabbit's power firsthand.

‘Was it because of this thing?’

It seemed that the prime reason the heir wasn't waking was because of this strange thing.

Un Hui, upon thinking this, immediately grabbed hold of the rabbit by its legs.

Maksu looked at Un Hui with an enraged and oppressed face.

‘Goddamnit! I was the one that got beat up, you idiot!’

But he couldn’t even bring himself to say it out loud.

He was far too tired to even talk.

In the dream, Maksu got horribly beat up by Cho Ryu Hyang.

But of course Un Hui wouldn’t know about that.

Therefore, the man simply decided to chuck Maksu out the window.

Shooo-

Maksu closed his eyes as he flew out like an arrow.

He was so tired and annoyed at this point that he just didn’t want to think.

“Hey? What happened?”

No Jin Nyung did not understand why Un Hui was being so violent towards the rabbit.

“.....The cause of the sickness is gone, so he should be waking up about now.”

The moment Un Hui's words came out, Cho Ryu Hyang opened his eyes.

And once Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes opened, he looked at the three people in the room confusedly.

“.....What's going on?”

“Are you alright, lord heir?”

Cho Ryu Hyang, still confused, responded immediately when Lim Hak Gyum asked a question.

“Yes. I'm alright.....”

“That's good. Nothing had really happened while you had been sleeping.”

Lim Hak Gyum and Un Hui both decided to close their mouths.

They did not wish to talk about how much they worried for the heir while he had been sleeping.

But there was a single man who always decided to talk about the smallest things.

“We were so worried because you weren’t waking up, hehe.”

“What?”

Worried because he wasn’t waking up?

What was that supposed to mean?

Cho Ryu Hyang put on his glasses and stared at No Jin Nyung.

No Jin Nyung let out a relieved sigh and spoke.

“By the way, what was that with the weird rabbit that came out of your nose?”

“.....There was something like that?”

Only then did Cho Ryu Hyang began to look around with interest.

He was trying to find Maksu.

After all, whatever the purpose of the rabbit was, Cho Ryu Hyang managed to gain a lot in the end.

But there was no way Maksu would currently be here thanks to Un Hui.

Lim Hak Gyum, at that moment, sighed and opened his mouth.

“Lord heir, there is a problem.”

Cho Ryu Hyang read the seriousness from Lim Hak Gyum’s voice and immediately stood up.

“They made their move, didn’t they.”

“Yes. They’re only about half a day away from us.”

“They moved later than I thought.”

“Do you have a plan in mind?”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

When he did so?, the three other people in the room immediately made expectant gazes.

Cho Ryu Hyang always had a revolutionary plan at hand.

Although the boy’s plans never really made sense, they worked extremely well, which made them curious.

“What is that plan?”

In the end, No Jin Nyung couldn't help but ask the question. Cho Ryu Hyang smiled playfully in response.

“You'll see.”

“Eeh?, can't you even tell us a little bit?”

“I can't. This is something you'd have to look at with your own eyes.”

When No Jin Nyung made a disappointed face, Sunwu Cho Rin bust into the room with some news.

“There's someone who wishes to meet you.”

“A guest?”

Cho Ryu Hyang was confused.

Who was it?

Who would come here at such a time, especially when the Four Powers were attacking?

Sunwu Cho Rin smiled, knowing that this was what everyone

was thinking at the time.

“They’re from the Imperial Palace.”

“The Imperial Palace!”

Why did the people who had been avoiding them come here, all of sudden?

Everyone in the room became very surprised.

And the guests who came here today, especially Ju Ho yu, was getting extremely confused.

“What’s wrong?”

Ju Ho Yu came back to his senses once he heard Tai Gonggong’s question.

“This..... seems to be a formation.”

“Formation? Where?”

Ju Ho Yu continued as Tai Gonggong carefully looked around.

“If I’m not wrong, it seems that this entire place is inside a single formation.”

“What? Is that even possible?”

“Yes. It is, but..... it definitely would’ve taken a tremendous amount of money.”

“Crazy bastards.....”

A formation this big?

Ju Ho Yu was unable to come to his senses the moment he entered the area because of the energy from the formation.

‘Just how much money did they use?’

The amount of money that would’ve been required to set up this formation would probably equal that of the one at the Imperial palace.

Ju Ho Yu was slowly beginning to become more and more confused as he waited for the heir.



Chapter 104. An Obvious Trap

“You can plant it in here.”

“Understood.”

There was something Cho Ryu Hyang immediately began to do when he arrived at Sichuan.

That something was to plant trees everywhere in the area.

Strangely enough, the trees that Cho Ryu Hyang had chosen were all different in size and shape.

No matter how busy he was, Cho Ryu Hyang always found some time to plant more trees.

At the time, not even Un Hui and No Jin Nyung knew what Cho Ryu Hyang was trying to do.

But they still silently helped their master, and their work was finally beginning to bear fruit.

Ju Ho Yu liked sweet things.

Even in front of the frightening Chuk Gye Gwang, he was unable to restrain his sweet tooth; however, right now, he was unable to touch the sweets that were in front of him.

That was because he was in deep thought at the moment.

‘The formation has not been activated yet?’

The giant formation that was set up in the Sichuan branch of the church.

He didn’t know who made such a thing, but one thing was for sure: the man who made this formation was an ‘expert’.

But that wasn’t the only thing that made Ju Ho Yu so surprised.

‘This is amazing.’

The formation wasn’t even activated.

Even so, the energy that came from it was extremely unusual.

Ju Ho Yu was able to feel the energy that others were unable to feel in an instant.

After continuously rubbing his nose, Ju Ho Yu closed his eyes.

‘The smell is just too strong.’

This formation had an extremely strong smell.

A formation attained a unique smell based on its purpose.

A formation made to kill had a smell of blood about it and one that was made to capture people had an earthly smell about it.

But the formation here had a different smell from anything else.

‘What in the world is this?’

A formation he never knew existed.

Ju Ho Yu was stressed due to finding something he never saw before.

He slowly opened his eyes and exhaled.

He had remembered something that someone told him a long time ago.

‘Nothing is impossible in this world.’

The only man in the world who tried to create formations through calculations.

And the only man in the world who tried to look at the world

mathematically.

‘Teacher Jo Gi Chun.....’

The man who worked harder than anyone else in the Imperial palace.

That man’s advice floated up in Ju Ho Yu’s mind multiple times, allowing him to become calm.

Jo Gi Chun, the man who no longer existed in the world, had managed to calm Ju Ho Yu quite a bit through his advice.

‘Nothing is impossible, huh.....’

It seemed that he had been thinking that there wouldn’t be any formation experts who were better than he was.

Thinking that such a person might exist actually made him quite comfortable.

Ju Ho Yu stretched his hand out to the snack in front of him and calmed himself.

‘Keep calm.’

His chaotic eyes immediately became calm again.

He had to wait.

If he waited, the person would come.

The person who made the formation.

And a while later, the person appeared in front of him.

“You’re making it too obvious that you’re in love with him, senior brother.”

A small, dry whisper was passed by between two people.

“Yeah? That’s good. I’m doing it on purpose. I think I’m in love. What should I do?”

The heir to the North Sea Ice Palace, Juk Hyul Myung, looked right and grinned.

The person who he was looking at was Gu Hui, the heir of the Nanman Beast Gate, who was currently riding on a black ox.



Juk Hyul Myung's eyes burned with fighting spirit as he looked at Gu Hui.

“Trying to fight here..... Are you crazy? Are you actually trying to get beat up by our teacher?”

Juk Hyul Myung grinned for a bit, but after hearing Ju Da Hye's words, his grin disappeared.

“Hey, junior sister, your words are getting a little rough nowadays? Aren’t you being too harsh here?”

“You’re forcing me to be like this.”

Juk Hyul Myung looked at Ju Da Hye with an annoyed face.

In the past, he would’ve teased the girl, but he couldn’t really do that now because of the mistake he made a while back.

‘And.....’

For some reason, the girl’s pride was going through the roof nowadays.

It was almost too hard to handle.

Juk Hyul Myung swore that he would take his revenge in the near future, but at that moment, his eyes met Ju Da Hye’s.

Then, the girl lifted her chin, making a ‘what do you want?’ face at him, making Juk Hyul Myung awkwardly smile and turn away.

“I swear, you’re going to try to hit me in the near future.”

“Tch, it’s not like you’re actually going to get hit though.”

“Well, that would depend on the situation.”

Ju Da Hye’s eyes sparkled when she heard this.

Her senior had never been hit by anyone since his birth.

Because his talent was so great, not even their master punished them.

This kind of a person just indirectly said that he would allow himself to be hit.

‘Is this a chance?’

Ju Da Hye began to look at the world more positively.

However.

“Puhehe, I’d be screwed the day I actually get hit by you. I’d actually have to give up my position as your senior brother?”

“.....”

“Anyway, I’d have to fight that lump of muscle on some other day. The Church thing comes first.”

“.....Right.”

Juk Hyul Myung completely ignored Ju Da Hye's crestfallen face as he moved on his horse.

There weren't many people who actually came from the North Sea Ice Palace and the Nanman Beast Gate.

The group was actually just under twenty people.

The people from the Alliance behind them, however, numbered more than two thousand.

‘We're just straight up asking to fight, huh.’

Well, that was what they were going to end up doing, but he still didn't like it.

Juk Hyul Myung disliked winning by numbers.

Just sending Gu Hui or him would've been enough to assassinate the heir of the Demon Church.

That might actually be easier actually.

But.....

‘Just what is teacher thinking.....’

He would never have attended a fight like this if it wasn't for his teacher.

This was probably the same for Gu Hui as well.

The heir of the Church greatly let down Juk Hyul Myung's expectations.

‘A child who just turned ten.....’

This made him feel quite disappointed.

He had been expecting a lot from the heir after all.

‘But.....’

The fact that the great Gongson Chun Gi sent a little child to Sichuan made him feel a little confused; however, it didn't change how Juk Hyul Myung was going to cut off any weeds that might become dangerous in the future.

‘Two harmonious experts, was it?’

Having two harmonious experts as bodyguards showed how much importance Gongson Chun Gi put in his heir.

But that was all.

Unless Gongson Chun Gi himself came, there was no way Juk Hyul Myung was going to move back.

‘I hope those experts are there right now.’

As Juk Hyul Myung thought this, a single man from the Alliance complained to himself.

“How long do we have to follow them? This is getting annoying.”

“Be patient.”

“I’m not used to such a thing..... and why are they so arrogant?”

The representative of the Alliance, Qing Song Ja, sighed to himself inside.

‘Is there anyone in this world who’s as arrogant as you?’

The man who had been complaining.

Although this man was far younger than Qing Song Ja, it was hard to treat him normally.

‘The disciple of the Dao King.’

This man, Kang Sebin, was someone who the great Lim Jaehak took in as a disciple in his later years.

But Kang Sebin’s master wasn’t what made Qing Song Ja act to respectfully.

The fact that Kang Sebin reached the Harmonious stage in just twenty years, even when starting to learn at a late age, was what made Qing Song Ja act with great respect.

This man would surely lead the next generation of martial artists.

The man also happened to be a sworn rival of Yu Sul Bin.

The reason for this was simple.

‘Swordsmen are all just fancy weaklings.’

Due to the fact that Kang Sebin regularly uttered these words, he and Yu Sul Bin always got into a fight when meeting each other.

‘So why did I become the representative?’

Qing Song Ja was feeling extremely stressed for becoming the

representative for the Alliance.

He was afraid of what would happen later.

What would happen after this battle?

‘The Alliance should have a plan for that.....’

He could only subdue his panicked heart by telling himself this.

Then, the person at the very front suddenly stopped.

“What is this?”

As Kang Sebin frowned and said this, Qing Song Ja sent out his disciple to the front.

When the disciple came back later, Chun Songja asked a question.

“What’s going on?”

“Well..... I think you’d have to see for yourself.”

Qing Song Ja frowned.

To him, representatives were people who couldn't be moved that easily.

“Was that what they told you?”

“No, but they seemed to be quite concerned.”

“Concerned? About what?”

He knew the Church was quite strong.

But this group was composed solely of experts.

There would rarely be a case where this group could actually become pressured.

And the experts from the Nanman Beast Gate and the North Sea Ice Palace were extremely powerful as well.

So why were they hesitating?

Qing Song Ja's disciple hesitated, then opened his mouth.

“The doors are open.”

“What?”

“The doors to the Church are wide open, as if they are inviting us in.....”

“Huh? As expected of the Church..... What pride.....”

“To this disciple, it looks like the others are hesitating to go in because of that door.”

Qing Song Ja’s eyes narrowed.

“Tch, how cowardly.”

They must be like this because they don’t have enough experience.

At times like this, experienced people like him should step up.

When Qing Song Ja walked up with a mindset like such, Kang Sebin silently followed behind him.

‘Why’s this guy coming along?’

Qing Song Ja was about to say something to the man, but decided not to.

It wasn’t like the man was going to listen to him, and he needed

someone to pressure the other side as well.

And once Qing Song Ja walked to the front lines, he immediately approached Gu Hui and Juk Hyul Myung.

“Why are you hesitating?”

Juk Hyul Myung glanced at the man, then turned back to Gu Hui.

“He wouldn’t know even if we tell him, right?”

“Probably.....”

“Damn it, how troublesome.”

Qing Song Ja frowned when he realized the two were talking about him.

But in this world, the strong ones had all the right to say whatever they wanted.

Due to this, he simply tried to stop himself from becoming angered.

At that moment, Kang Sebin, who was next to Qing Song Ja, opened his mouth.

“Are you guys hesitating because of that?”

Only then did Gu Hui and Juk Hyul Myung turn towards them.

“Hoh? I had thought that the Alliance only had idiots, but that doesn’t seem to be the case.”

“Don’t put me on the same level as them, please.”

“Well, whatever. What do you think about all of this? Should we go in? Our side should be fine, but your side would suffer from a lot of casualties.”

“I should be fine, but the others won’t be.”

The three people began to talk amongst each other.

Qing Song Ja, who had been completely ignored, turned red from anger.

“What in the world are you people talking about! Kang Sebin, please tell me what’s going on!”

Kang Sebin glanced at Qing Song Ja, sighed, then opened his mouth.

“There’s something dangerous in front of us.”

“Something dangerous?”

So what was it?

Gu Hui decided to answer this one.

“It’s a formation. A big one at that.”

“For.....mation?”

What the hell was this?

These people stopped the entire group, just because of a single formation?

“You were hesitating just because of a mere formation? Just attack. There’s no need to hesitate over such petty things.”

Gu Hui and Juk Hyul Myung smirked when they heard this.

“Yeah? We’ll attack if you want, then.”

Kang Sebin thought about stopping Qing Song Ja, but decided against it.

He didn't want to waste his time either.

Juk Hyul Myung got off his horse with a grin and walked forward.

“Shall we go, then? I can't wait to find out what kind of a monster is inside.”

He knew that there was danger inside.

It was extremely obvious.

But that's what made things interesting.

Juk Hyul Myung's grin widened.

Chapter 105. Cho Ryu Hyang Meets Ju Ho Yu

Everyone had a scent of their own.

From a young age, Ju Ho Yu was able to detect the unique smell that came off of different people.

Some smelled like trees with delicious fruit hanging off of them, which could immediately make anyone happy.

Those people were usually very kind and made everyone around them positive.

But there were some people who simply smelled disgusting.

The smellier these people were, the eviler they were.

These evil people usually enjoyed hurting or even killing others.

At first, Ju Ho Yu didn't know what this power was.

But as time passed, he began to realize that this power was something that was unique to him.

And he only realized how to distinguish personalities by smell when he became more mature.

‘It’s him.’

Ju Ho Yu realized something the instant a boy with glasses walked in.

This person, no, this kid was the one who created the formation that surrounded the entire Sichuan branch.

Ju Ho Yu was completely sure that he was right.

After all, the smell of the formation was identical to the one emanating off from this boy’s.

But this smell, to Ju Ho Yu, was something entirely new.

Because of that, the way he looked at Cho Ryu Hyang was extremely calm.

‘Calm down.’

When looking at new things, one must never get excited.

There was a need to be calm, and inspect everything in detail.

Only when he looked at something with a scholar’s mindset, would he be able to see something new.

Cho Ryu Hyang flinched as well when he entered the room.

There were two people in the room other than him; a seemingly average man and a man who looked more womanly than a woman.

Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes eventually fell upon the average-looking man.

‘This person is.....’

The eyes of Cho Ryu Hyang and Ju Ho Yu met.

During that short time,

Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes widened greatly.

This was the same for Ju Ho Yu as well.

Both of them were simply filled with the emotion of “surprise.”



‘No way.’

Ju Ho Yu wanted to run out at that instant, but he tightly balled up his fists and prevented himself from doing so.

He realized something when his eyes met with the kid’s.

This kid was a monster.

How could a smell of several people come out of a single child?

This just wasn't possible.

Ju Ho Yu lifted his trembling hand and touched his nose.

The kind of smell he smelled wasn't something that he perceived with his nose.

He was smelling something that was more like the smell of the soul itself.

Because of this, Ju Ho Yu could only look at Cho Ryu Hyang with great confusion.

'Who is this man?'

Cho Ryu Hyang, too, was surprised when he saw the man.

He touched his glasses unconsciously, and made a serious face.

'88.'

Disregarding Gongson Chun Gi, his teacher, this was the highest number Cho Ryu Hyang had ever seen.

If this man studied martial arts, he would be a terrifying expert, and if he worked with scholarly matters, it would not be wrong to call him a sage.

‘Which one... is he?’

There was a need to see what the man did.

It didn’t look like the man studied martial arts.

That, however, made Cho Ryu Hyang feel even more uncomfortable.

As Cho Ryu Hyang thought this.

Tai Gonggong decided to break the uncomfortable silence between them.

“So you’re the heir?”

“.....”

“Hmm, you look smarter than I thought. Pretty as well.”

When Tai Gonggong said this as he licked his lips, No Jin Nyung flinched a little from behind Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘This bastard, he’s asking out the heir...’

But even before No Jin Nyung moved, Cho Ryu Hyang raised his hand and stopped him. He then began to talk calmly.

“Apologies for being so rude. Like you mentioned just now, I am the heir of the church.”

“Say your introductions after you sit down, won’t you? How long are you planning on staying standing?”

“I see. Apologies.”

He had completely forgotten about manners because of Ju Ho Yu.

After sitting down in front of Tai Gonggong, he slowly touched the bracelet on his arms.

He then smiled inside.

‘Things are getting interesting.’

He had never expected this to happen.

The Imperial Palace most definitely came here because the Four Powers were moving.

There was no reason for them to come otherwise.

Cho Ryu Hyang took a look at Ju Ho Yu for a moment and opened his mouth.

“Would you tell me what you came here to do? As you know, we are quite busy at the moment.”

“I know. We came here because of that.”

Tai Gonggong said this and looked at Ju Ho Yu.

He didn't understand why the man was being all dazed like this.

Wasn't this guy supposed to be the person in charge here?

He glared at Ju Ho Yu for a moment, but the man still didn't move.

In the end, Tai Gonggong sent him a very loud wake up call.

[Come back, you idiot.]

Ju Ho Yu came back to his senses when Tai Gonggong's message loudly played in his brain.

He blinked several times, realized what was going on, and

immediately opened his mouth.

“Sorry for everything. I’m Ju Ho Yu. I work as a mathematician in the Imperial Palace.”

“.....Cho Ryu Hyang.”

Cho Ryu Hyang told the man his name on instinct when the man said it.

He then tilted his head a bit.

He felt that he heard the name before.

And it wasn’t just the name that made Cho Ryu Hyang tilt his head.

‘A mathematician?’

Cho Ryu Hyang realized something the moment he heard the man’s job.

He found out what kind of a man this person was.

‘So it was him.’

This man was a professional mathematician, who dealt with

things related to calculations in the Palace.

He was also the person who created the formation that trapped Un Hui.

These two facts merged into a single thing in his head.

Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes became much more serious.

‘A man who views the world through mathematics.’

He had wanted to meet this man.

He didn't know he'd meet the man like this, but perhaps this meeting was fate.

He would use this chance to see just how strong this man was.

Seeing it didn't actually take too long.

“Are you thinking of activating the formation here?”

When Ju Ho yu asked this, Cho Ryu Hyang blinked a few times.

As expected, the man noticed the formation.

But this was something that even harmonious experts couldn't detect?

‘And.....’

It seemed that the man also knew that Cho Ryu Hyang was the one who create the formation as well.

He was good enough to notice a formation that wasn't even active, and somehow, he was able to see who made it. This made Cho Ryu Hyang see that the man reached a considerable height in formations.

But there was one thing that he had to confirm before he could make this conclusion.

“A formation? I don't know what you mean.....”

When Cho Ryu Hyang pretended to not know anything, Ju Ho Yu frowned.

“Are you trying to hide it? Or are you trying to see if I am truly skilled? Do I really have to tell you that you set up a giant defensive formation here?”

“Formation? There's a formation here?”

When Tai Gonggong said this with wide eyes, Ju Ho Yu frowned

even more.

“Yes. It’s as big as the one in the Palace. It’s just not active yet.”

“Really? That’s pretty good.”

“Yes. It really is amazing. The size as well as its power..... depending on its owner, it’s possible to kill or save massive amounts of people.”

Ju Ho Yu said this as he looked at Cho Ryu Hyang.

His eyes seemed to be saying ‘are you still going to feign innocence?’ Cho Ryu Hyang could only smile in front of that gaze.

If the opponent knew this much already, everything would actually become quite easy.

“How did you know?”

“Is that important?”

Cho Ryu Hyang smiled.

It seemed that the other side did not know the purpose of his question just now.

There was a need to be more specific.

“Yes. It’s important. The Four Powers, or the Imperial Palace does not matter at the moment.”

“.....”

“The objective of the Four Powers is just too clear, and I can already tell why you came here, and they do not matter to me one bit. The only thing that I care about at the moment is how you noticed the formation, and how you knew I made it.”

Cho Ryu Hyang calmly stared at Ju Ho Yu.

This gaze made Ju Ho Yu’s eyes shake slightly.

He had seen a glimpse of someone he respected in the boy’s eyes.

“So I ask you to answer. If you thought you could just take information from here, you are greatly mistaken.”

“.....”

“The fact that there’s a formation here, along with the fact that I made this formation, is a great secret. Now, you must give back something of equal value.”

Equivalent exchange.

You gain something, and you lose something.

The world was unexpectedly fair this way.

Ju Ho Yu thought of the word and frowned.

But it wasn't like he was going to take this lying down.

He would never let himself get dragged around by his opponent.

Especially when that opponent was a child.

“I figured it out myself, so you do figure it out by yourself as well.”

It wouldn't be easy.

He definitely wouldn't be giving any hints.

That was what Ju Ho Yu's face was saying, but this only made Cho Ryu Hyang's smile get even wider.

“I knew you'd say this. It would take a bit of time, but if you're fine with that, I'll do it.”

Cho Ryu Hyang knew.

He knew that his opponent didn't know much about him.

The man probably thought that he was a normal formations expert.

Ju Ho Yu probably didn't know that he used mathematics as well.

In that case, there was still something that he had to take from Ju Ho Yu.

“Would you bring me a brush and a piece of paper?”

When Cho Ryu Hyang said this, Lim Hak Gyum immediately issued a single command.

And a while later, someone appeared out of the shadows, gave Cho Ryu Hyang a brush, ink, and paper, then left.

Tai Gonggong made an amused face when he saw this.

“Hoh? So the church really does have some useful kids?”

“Yes.”

Cho Ryu Hyang lightly replied and looked at the paper in front of him.

He pushed away the snacks on the table and grabbed onto the brush.

After he dipped the brush in ink, he put the brush over the paper. However, just before he wrote what he had in his mind, a single ‘information’ made him stop.

Then, he trembled.

The thing that bothered him from a while back.

The reason why Ju Ho Yu sounded so familiar.

‘The best mathematician in the world.....’

That was it.

That was what was in his mind for so long.

Jo Gi Chun had told him something once.

The area that even he had never managed to reach in life.

And the single mathematician who managed to reach that are.

‘At that time, teacher definitely mentioned Ju Ho Yu.’

This was it.

This was the person.

Cho Ryu Hyang stopped everything, and looked at Ju Ho Yu. There was a mixture of emotions inside his eyes.

He felt that there was something that tied them together.

‘I have to confirm it.’

If this person really was as great as his teacher had said, there was one thing he had to confirm.

Cho Ryu Hyang began to move his brush again, but this time, there was a different light in his eyes.

Chapter 106. Tai Gonggong's Suspicion

Everything in the world was made of numbers.

This was the truth, and Cho Ryu Hyang knew it.

Because of this, he began to write a bunch of numbers on the paper in front of him.

After a while, he handed the piece of paper to Ju Ho Yu.

Shf-

“What’s this?”

“You’ll see when you look at it.”

Ju Ho Yu looked at Cho Ryu Hyang and thought for a second.

Tai Gonggong made an annoyed face when he saw this.

Right now, Ju Ho Yu didn’t accomplish a single thing here. Wasn’t he supposed to be the person who impressed even the general?

Tai Gonggong simply couldn’t believe that Ju Ho Yu was currently being dragged around by a child.

‘But I still gained something.’

Ju Ho Yu glanced at Cho Ryu Hyang.

Gongson Chun Gi really did get himself a good heir.

He had to admit that.

He didn’t know much about martial arts, but regarding formations, this child was as skilled as he was, the strongest formations expert in the Imperial Palace.

‘That’s why we have to get rid of him.’

Ju Ho Yu looked at the child in front of him with a saddened face.

There was a very good reason to kill this boy.

The Imperial Palace disliked beings that could become potentially dangerous to them.

Once he thought that much, he glanced down at the paper that the child had given him.

Just what was the child trying to find out from him?

He wasn't the type of person who could be played by a mere child.

He, laughing inside, began to observe the paper. Once he did, he was no longer able to laugh.

‘Eh?’

He thought that he saw an illusion.

But the more he looked at the paper, the more concerned he became.

He couldn't turn his eyes away from the paper.

‘This is.....’

Crackle-

Ju Ho yu gripped onto the paper.

To others, what was written on the paper may be simple numbers, but Ju Ho Yu saw something completely different.

After looking at the paper for a long while, Ju Ho Yu let out a sigh, and looked up.

His eyes held the emotion of confusion in them.



“.....How do you know teacher?”

He said this with a confused voice.

His previous calm attitude was nowhere to be found.

Cho Ryu Hyang didn't mind it.

He simply fixed up his glasses a bit.

'This person is the real one.'

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded without knowing it as he looked at Ju Ho Yu.

This person really was the real deal.

The title "greatest mathematician" fit the man quite well.

After thinking about what his teacher had told him about Ju Ho Yu, Cho Ryu Hyang opened his mouth.

"Is that the only thing that you're curious of?"

Ju Ho Yu shook his head.

Was that the only thing?

Of course not.

He had so many things to ask, but he just couldn't organize them.

‘I have to ask you something.’

But there was a single question that needed to be asked first.

And the answer to that question would decide Cho Ryu Hyang’s fate.

Ju Ho Yu’s face, at this moment, was as cold as ice.

“Were you related to teacher’s death?”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

At this, Ju Ho Yu’s face turned even colder.

But at that moment,

“Teacher passed away because of me.”

“.....!”

“I am trying to take revenge for him.”

Ju Ho Yu made a dumb face for a second.

He immediately came back to his senses and asked a question.

“Did you say teacher? You say you were a student of teacher Jo Gi Chun?”

“Yes. He was my teacher.”

“.....!”

Ju Ho Yu’s face was filled with shock, then understanding.

And in the end, it turned into a sorrowful face.

‘What the hell is he doing?’

Tai Gonggong made an annoyed face as he watched Ju Ho Yu’s face change at an extreme rate.

Ju Ho Yu was unable to contain his cries at this time.

“Kuh! Kuuh!”

“Eh? Hey..... What are you.....”

Tai Gonggong tried to stop Ju Ho Yu, but the man had already begun to cry and slam the table with his fists.

“Kuheuheuk! Urk!”

“Bastard, what the hell are you doing?”

Tai Gonggong sweat profusely as he tried to stop Ju Ho Yu, but tears kept flowing out of Ju Ho Yu’s eyes.

“Kuaaa!”

“.....Son of a..... Why are you doing this to me, huh? Don’t be this way.”

Cho Ryu Hyang opened his mouth as Tai Gonggong frantically tried to control Ju Ho Yu’s sobs.

“Do you know teacher?”

“Hurk.... Hik! Of course I do! Kuh!”

Ju Ho Yu, who turned into a slobbering mess in an instant, had surprised everyone except for Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘Teacher.....’

Cho Ryu Hyang, too, was surprised by Ju Ho Yu’s extreme reactions, but as he already knew that Ju Ho Yu had known about

Jo Gi Chun, he wasn't greatly surprised.

It was just that he felt something in his heart react to Ju Ho Yu's fiery sobs. Cho Ryu Hyang immediately set out to control it.

But that wasn't as easy as he thought.

The burning feeling in his heart spread to his entire body in an instant.

The rage and pain that he suffered from when his teacher died was boiling up again.

It was beginning to make Cho Ryu Hyang's mental state lose balance as well.

'Things would get troublesome if I became unstable now.'

He did not forget the pain he had felt in the past.

No, he couldn't.

Because of that, he was planning on taking revenge for his teacher through the entire course of his life.

As Cho Ryu Hyang tried his best to control his emotions, Ju Ho Yu had wiped away his tears with the handkerchief that Tai

Gonggong had given him and managed to talk.

“Teacher Jo Gi Chun was the only person in the world who truly understood me as a mathematician. Are you truly his disciple?”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded with reddened eyes.

“I’m his only disciple.”

“Amazing. Haha..... You had an amazing teacher.”

Ju Ho Yu grinned like a maniac, with tears and snot covering his face.

As Tai Gonggong became disgusted by such a face, Ju Ho Yu remembered the handkerchief in hand and tried to return it.

When he did so, Tai Gonggong stepped away in disgust.

“Throw it away, dirty bastard.”

Only then did Ju Ho Yu see the state of the handkerchief. He smiled embarrassedly and put it in his pocket.

“Just throw it away, would you?”

“.....It seems expensive. I can’t bear throwing something like

this away.”

“You already turned it into a rag though?”

“I’ll clean it and return it to you on a later date.”

Tai Gonggong looked at Ju Ho Yu with a defeated face and shook his head.

“Dirty bastard. Do what you want.”

Ju Ho Yu watched Tai Gonggong walk away from him, then looked back at Cho Ryu Hyang.

“We have much to talk about.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

Ju Ho Yu was one of the few people who knew about Jo Gi Chun.

To Cho Ryu Hyang, who wanted to know much about Jo Gi Chun, this was really a good opportunity.

‘But this isn’t the right time…….’

Cho Ryu Hyang hadn’t expected that he would meet a person like this while the Four Powers were attacking.

He made a regretful face due to this.

Ju Ho Yu, who understood Cho Ryu Hyang's predicament, thought a bit, then opened his mouth.

"I'll just ask you a single thing."

"Right."

"What is this? I can see what it was as soon as I laid my eyes on it, but who taught you something like this? Was it teacher Jo Gi Chun?"

Ju Ho Yu made a confused face as he lifted the paper that Cho Ryu Hyang gave him.

To others, this paper showed numbers, but Ju Ho Yu was able to see its true form.

'Teacher.....'

There was a picture of Jo Gi Chun drawn on it.

Cho Ryu Hyang thought for a bit.

'How should I tell him?'

This was something that was drawn based on Zhuge Liang's picture that he saw in a book a long time back, but he didn't know how to use it.

"I have never seen something like this before..... Did teacher become that skilled while I didn't see him?"

Thankfully, it seemed that Ju Ho Yu thought that Jo Gi Chun was the one who came up with the idea.

Cho Ryu Hyang thought about clearing things up, then decided not to.

Ju Ho Yu looked at the paper for a while longer, then realized something and turned to Tai Gonggong.

Tai Gonggong felt something from Ju Ho Yu's gaze and looked away uncomfortably.

"Gonggong."

".....Don't call me that."

"Tai Gonggong."

"I'm not a tool you can use whenever you want."

“It doesn’t look like we can do much here.”

“.....I can see that.”

They had originally come to stop the Four Powers.

But the Church was already prepared.

In that case, there was no need for them to do anything.

But because of that, a problem arose.

Tai Gonggong looked at Cho Ryu Hyang.

“By the way... it looks like the heir’s talent is through the roof? Even the greatest formations expert in the Imperial Palace was impressed. How interesting.”

Ju Ho Yu felt a chill run down his shoulders just then.

Tai Gonggong’s gaze was something that resembled a predator looking at its prey.

‘I made a mistake.’

He had forgotten what this place was like because of Jo Gi Chun.

The Imperial Palace was planning on getting rid of all martial artist groups in the world.

Tai Gonggong was one of the core members who were involved in the plan.

Ju Ho Yu revealed the talent of Cho Ryu Hyang in front of a person like that.

Ju Ho Yu's eyes shook.

'The boy's name would now be on the Palace's blacklist.'

He wanted to beat the ground in regret.

He showed too many things in front of Tai Gonggong.

To Tai Gonggong, whose priority was always the Palace, Cho Ryu Hyang was someone who absolutely had to be killed.

'Shoot.'

Ju Ho Yu knew how powerful Tai Gonggong was.

And that Tai Gonggong made Cho Ryu Hyang a target.

Ju Ho Yu due to this made a regretful face.

Cho Ryu Hyang, however, seemed calm. He knew what Tai Gonggong was thinking at the moment, but he didn't particularly feel anything from it.

He simply took out a piece of paper and wrote something on it.

Ju Ho Yu and Tai Gonggong.

Along with them, everyone in the room carefully looked at Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘What the hell is he doing now?’

Tai Gonggong observed every one of Cho Ryu Hyang's actions.

He knew instinctively that Cho Ryu Hyang was going to interfere with the actions of the Palace more than anyone else in the world.

After a moment, Cho Ryu Hyang gave Ju Ho Yu a new piece of paper that was once again filled with numbers.

“This should be good.”

Cho Ryu Hyang stood up with a cold face, then he left.

Ju Ho Yu and Tai Gonggong were both struck dumb by Cho Ryu Hyang's sudden actions.

Ju Ho Yu came back to his senses and began to read the paper.

"Huh?"

After looking at the paper for a bit, a gasp of amazement came out.

"What? What is it now?"

Tai Gonggong made a curious face, but Ju Ho Yu didn't say anything.

The paper had a sort of a "language" of numbers.

[I understand that you may be worried for me, but I will not die that easily. As my teacher told me to survive during his last moments, I plan on doing just that. No matter who the enemy is, they cannot kill me, so please do not worry about me. Worry about yourself instead. The person next to you seems to be becoming suspicious of you.]

Ju Ho Yu sat dumbly for a moment.

It felt like he was hit on the head with a hammer.

The child had been looking at everything with a much wider viewpoint than he.

‘I was misunderstanding things.....’

At first, he was jealous of the child taking in Jo Gi Chun as a teacher.

But not anymore.

Now, he was jealous of Jo Gi Chun having such a good disciple.

Ju Ho Yu bitterly smiled as he looked at Tai Gonggong, who was asking him about the contents of the paper.

“Looks like I was mistaken about something.”

“What?”

“I tried to be friendly with a disciple of a person I knew, and I got rejected brutally. I feel quite ashamed.”

“.....Idiot. I know something was wrong with you as soon as you broke down.”

At that moment, Ju Ho Yu felt something.

He felt that the wariness that Tai Gonggong had towards him melted away just like that.....

‘Cho Ryu Hyang, was it?’

The child was amazing.

Ju Ho Yu praised the child multiple times as he looked at the spot the boy had been sitting on.

Chapter 107. Entry

Come to think of it, the whole attack never really felt right from the start.

The Black Moon Guild decided not to participate in the middle of the attack, and the group honestly wasn't prepared enough to attack anything.

'But those aren't good enough reasons to make us stop the attack.'

The entire situation got far too big at this point.

There were too many people watching.

Juk Hyul Myung walked up to the doors, hesitated a bit, then lifted one foot.

He slowly began to lower it down to the other side, but before he actually touched the ground, he turned to Gu Hui.

"Do you want to do it, or should I?"

Gu Hui replied calmly.

"It wouldn't work."

“Better than not trying.”

“Well.....”

“Whatever, I’m doing it.”

Juk Hyul Myung then smashed the ground lightly with his leg.

Kuung-

The moment his foot touched the ground, a wave spread out through the earth.

The wave was big enough to be visible to the naked eyes.

“Ohh!”

The martial artists who had been watching shouted out in admiration.

It truly was a powerful move.

But Juk Hyul Myung and Gu Hui didn’t seem happy at all.

“Damn it. It didn’t work.”

“Well, it is quite big.”

The formation did not break.

Gu Hui stroked his chin and frowned.

‘This is too much.’

The attack performed by Juk Hyul Myung was stronger than what the martial artists saw.

There were probably only two people who noticed it’s true power. Gu Hui and Kang Sebin.

‘But it wasn’t shaken one bit.....’

Gu Hui had studied formations before.

But he only knew a little about them.

In front of a formation like this, none of the things he knew were useful.

‘A formation that can’t be broken from the outside.....’

That would mean that they would have to break the formation from the inside, but would that be easy?

His head was beginning to get complicated.

Right after he thought that, Juk Hyul Myung opened his mouth.

“I’ll go first.”

As he said this, and he walked into the formation, his body disappeared after a few steps.

“Huh?”

“W..what the?!”

While the experts from the Alliance all became shocked speechless, the experts of the North Sea Ice Palace walked in silently.

They, too, disappeared.

“Interesting.”

Gu Hui looked back when he heard a voice from his back.

He could see Kang Sebin look at this happening with an

interested face.

He turned back and looked at the formation again.

Then, he looked at the sky for a few seconds.

The deed was already done.

There was no need to wait any longer.

“Follow me carefully.”

“Understood.”

The Nanman Beast Gate’s people moved after the North Sea Ice Palace’s.

Once they disappeared from sight, Kang Sebin began to move as well.

But someone stopped him.

It was Qing Song Ja.

“Where are you going? We have to stick together.”

Kang Sebin frowned.

He looked into the formation and spoke.

“Would we be insulted if we decided to step back for a while?”

“Who’d dare do that? And it’s dangerous to enter without proper preparations.”

Kang Sebin’s eyes shone when he heard this.

The man was actually smarter than what he had thought?

Qing Song Ja made a face of relief when he found that Kang Sebin did not move and turned back.

He faced the thousands pairs of eyes that were staring at him and coughed a few times.

“Nobody knows what would happen once we walk in.”

Kang Sebin nodded.

Then, Qing Song Ja opened his mouth with fiery eyes.

“You may turn back if you’re afraid. I will not judge you based on your decision.”

“.....”

Everyone became quiet and began to look at each other nervously.

“I’ll count till three. You may turn back during this time.”

Kang Sebin sighed when he watched Qing Song Ja slowly count.

‘What a joke.’

There was no way a martial artist from the Alliance would quit.

They would rather die than do that.

Qing Song Ja knew this better than anyone.

He was just trying to create an escape for himself, just in case he got in trouble later on.

‘So this is why my master told me to not get too close to the bastards in the Alliance.’

Kang Sebin shook his head as he thought of his master.

He had originally joined just to take a look at the heir of the Church.

After all, the person in question was the disciple of the great Gongson Chun Gi.

‘If it really is a normal child.....’

He was planning on leaving.

“Hum, hum, since no one left, let’s all go in.”

Qing Song Ja slowly walked until he reached the door.

“Hoo.....”

He tried to not show it, but Qing Song Ja was actually trembling lightly.

He was nervous.

It made him nervous to think of attacking the Church itself.

But he immediately shook off his nervousness and walked forward.

Thousands followed after him.

Kang Sebin walked into the formation along with the crowd.

Cho Ryu Hyang, who had been sitting on his desk for a while, slowly opened his eyes, and looked forward.

In front of him, there were thousands of martial experts who were looking right at him.

“They’re coming. Prepare yourselves.”

“Understood.”

Sunwu Cho Rin made a confused face as she bowed down.

The only thing the heir did was to draw a circle with strange shapes in it and step into it.

Then, he closed his eyes as if he was sleeping, and he tells her to get ready to fight.

Should she trust him?

‘A formation, was it?’

According to what the heir said, there was a giant formation surrounding the Sichuan branch.

That was why their enemies were so hesitant about coming in.

‘According to the information we have, the other side has up to three harmonious experts.’

Not even Sunwu Cho Rin could look down on the enemy this time.

There were three harmonious experts this time.

A single harmonious expert was able to take care of tens of peak experts.

Just a single person was able to change the flow of an entire battle.

And according to their info even the experts they had were of a higher class than theirs.

They were outnumbered and outclassed.

But the heir seemed calmer than ever.

He definitely had something in his sleeve.

‘And that would be the formation, huh.....’

Sunwu Cho Rin proceeded to command her subordinates to carry out the heir’s ‘peculiar’ command.

“Everyone..... Take what’s in front of you and follow me.”

The subordinates followed her commands, but made a confused face as well.

The tool that was laid out in front of them was the tool that was used to store fish when fishing.

‘But the size of the thing is big enough to contain a single person.....’

Sunwu Cho Rin had no idea what the heir was thinking.

Why was he telling them to fight with such a cumbersome thing?

Everyone was confused, but they didn’t dare say a thing.

Complete obedience.

That was how the Church worked.

Cho Ryu Hyang fixed his glasses.

‘They have arrived at the first gate.’

Their enemy arrived at the first gate in an instant.

Strangely enough, the very first person who came in was the most sensitive out of all of them.

‘If he’s not extremely sensitive, he must know a lot about formations.’

It had to be one of the two.

No matter what type he was, Cho Ryu Hyang already had it calculated.

As he watched the enemy outside the door, Cho Ryu Hyang narrowed his eyes.

‘Then.....’

He needed to use a different method.

Cho Ryu Hyang stood up, and looked at the circle on the floor.

This circle was the diagram of the formation around Sichuan.

Cho Ryu Hyang made a concerned face as he looked down at the circle.

‘First, one.’

Cho Ryu Hyang carefully placed a gem in the middle of the circle.

There was a need to separate the enemies.

“Ah, seriously. Slow down, senior brother.”

“.....Don’t you think you’re the slow one here?”

“Tch, can’t you learn to adjust? Were you solo all your life or something?”

Juk Hyul Myung looked at Ju Da Hye with a confused face.

“Are you the boss here?”

“No..... you are.”

“Then you should be following me.”

“You have to learn to look out for weak people, senior brother.”

“So why do I.....”

Juk Hyul Myung was unable to talk any further.

Ju Da Hye had cut him off completely.

“Senior brother, this is the enemy’s base, right?”

“Ri.....ght?”

“And we’re inside a formation, right?”

Juk Hyul Myung nodded without realizing it.

“We’re inside a formation, yeah.”

“It’d be dangerous if we get separated, right? The boss should take care of us and lead us, right?”

“.....”

Juk Hyul Myung tried to say something but gave up.

There was no time for him to argue with the girl.

Then, he began to feel something strange ahead.

‘Eh?’

What was that?

He felt something huge move?

Juk Hul Myung was about to say something but stopped and looked around. Ju Da Hye quickly caught up and gathered her subordinates.

“Think about us more.”

As Ju Da Hye puffed her cheeks and tried to complain, Juk Hyul Myung grabbed her shoulders and pulled her close.

“Be quiet.”

“.....”

Juk Hyul Myung was being serious.

Ju Da Hye nodded with a confused face.

Juk Hyul Myung looked behind him and opened his mouth.

“Leader of the Frigid Wind Division.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Unfortunately, I don’t think I can take care of you guys as well.”

The leader of the Frigid Wind Division looked at his subordinates and smiled faintly.

“You don’t have to think about us, sir.”

“Don’t die. This place is strange.”

There was something stranger than what he originally had thought.

He felt something, but it immediately disappeared.

And.....

‘Mm? More presences?’

Juk Hyul Myung frowned because of the presences he suddenly felt.

Crack-

A blue flame rose up around everyone.



Chapter 108. Nine Flowing Army Formation

After exiting the Sichuan Branch of the Heavenly Demon Church, Ju Ho Yu observed the changes in the formation for quite a while.

He was curious of how that boy would use the formation.

Thanks to that, Ju Ho Yu saw the Four Powers gather and quabble in front of the gates.

And once they all entered the formation, he widened his eyes and clapped his hands in admiration.

He had realized what the secret of the formation was.

The fire was hot.

In an instant, the air burned out and the heat quickly began to take over.

The moment when everyone's eyes were turned towards Juk Hyul Myung, the man stepped out and waved his hand.

Kuaa-

The cold energy that came out of his hands struck the area and

subdued the flames for a moment.

Seeing the people of the North Sea Ice Palace sighed in relief, Juk Hyul Myung looked at them and opened his mouth.

“Keep your guard up. This isn’t the end.”

Just as Juk Hyul Myung had said that, copper statues appeared in the place where the fire subdued.

There were countless statues surrounding them.

Juk Hyul Myung looked around for a moment and then smirked.

“I’ve already passed the age which I played with toys, though.”

Crack-

As he cracked his fingers, Juk Hyul Myung opened his mouth.

“Frigid Wind Leader.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Get rid of those.”

“Understood.”

20 martial artists moved along with the Frigid Wind Leader.

Kuakuakua-!

With each stroke, a copper statue would broke apart.

A white light glinted off from their weapons.

This was the sword qi, which proved that these experts were peak experts.

‘Where are you?’

As the Frigid Wind Brigade took care of the statues, Juk Hyul Ayung stretched out his senses in order to search for something.

‘Where did you hide?’

Juk Hyul Ayung wasn’t alerted by petty tricks like the statues.

What alerted him was the giant presence he felt right before the fire.

He was chasing after the giant presence that had touched the far edges of his senses.

‘Shit.’

His senses weren’t normal.

It was almost like he was trying to find something in a pool of mud.

Around the time when he began to frown, he felt something grab onto his sleeves.

When he looked back, he was able to see Ju Da Hye grabbing onto him with a stiff face.

“What is it?”

“Your face..... is scary.”

“Don’t you mean handsome?”

“Wow..... To think you’d be able to joke at a time like this..... Amazing.”

“I don’t joke about stuff like this.”

After saying this, Juk Hyul Ayung tried touching his face for a moment. As he did so, he smiled.

“Ahh, you’re right. I might get wrinkles at this rate.”

He didn’t want to admit it, but he must’ve seen to be anxious.

When was the last time when he was anxious like this?

He couldn’t remember.

This wasn’t the way he operated, either.

Juk Hyul Ayung managed to calm himself after Ju Da Hye’s words.

But right then.

Kiing-

Something had been caught in his senses once again.

A small light glinted off from Juk Hyul Myung’s eyes.

‘Found you.’

At the same time, Juk Hyul Myung swung his sword.

Chuaa-!

In an empty space, a small crack appeared.

A ‘wound’ was created in the air.

Juk Hyul Myung looked at this for a moment, then frowned.

The ‘wound’ had disappeared as if it had never existed before.

‘I definitely struck something, right?’

It felt like he had sliced flesh.

But that thing that he had sliced disappeared.

What happened?

Juk Hyul Myung tried to chase after the presence, but flinched before he actually did so.

“Oh, shit.....”

The members of the Frigid Wind Division had completely disappeared.

After looking around for a bit, Juk Hyul Myung grabbed onto Ju Da Hye's hand.

“Looks like the formation tries to separate people whenever possible. If you want to live, don't move too far away from me.”

Ju Da Hye nodded.

That was just what she had wanted, wasn't it?

“What the hell is that giant lump of muscle doing?”

Juk Hyul Myung stretched out his senses as he swore at Gu Hui.

He would wait till the presence appeared again.

“Ah.”

No Jin Nyung became confused when Cho Ryu Hyang's finger suddenly began to bleed.

Un Hui quickly appeared from the shadows and patched up Cho Ryu Hyang's finger.

“Are you alright?”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

“I’m fine. I was a little surprised that’s all.”

Right.

Cho Ryu Hyang was extremely surprised at the moment.

He didn’t know who was in the formation.

But that person just managed to do the impossible.

‘The world inside the formation and the world outside are both completely separated, so how?’

This was extremely strange.

After thinking for a bit, Cho Ryu Hyang stared at the small circle in front of him intently.

Right now, Cho Ryu Hyang was able to see everyone who were trapped inside the formation.

He was using the scrying formation in front of him to observe the Nine Flowing Army Formation that was surrounding the Sichuan branch.

Through the use of the scrying formation, he was able to control the giant formation of Sichuan.

‘But.....’

At the current moment, Cho Ryu Hyang was outside the formation.

But somehow, the man inside managed to attack him.

It wasn't a big wound, but this was something extremely new to Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘There's some kind of a variable that I failed to take into account?’

This was a formation that was created after thousands of calculations, but he still managed to end up in a situation that he hadn't expected at all. He must've underestimated the enemy quite a bit.

Cho Ryu Hyang calculated for a moment.

He just couldn't understand how the man attacked him.

In a moment, he had found his answer and had become immensely surprised.

‘He attacked the moment I controlled the formation?’

In the moment when he takes control of the formation.

In that short timeframe, the man had attacked him..... this was something that Cho Ryu Hyang had never taken into account.

There was an immensely strong expert inside the formation.

‘An unexpected variable.....’

Something didn’t feel right.

After taking a deep breath, Cho Ryu Hyang observed the formation even more carefully than before.

He was able to find two people inside.

Cho Ryu Hyang distanced himself away from them and observed.

Then, he nodded.

‘So it’s them.’

A handsome man and a woman who was hiding behind him.

The man was looking straight ahead with squinted eyes.

He didn't have a very oppressive aura around him or anything, but there was still something about him that made him seem quite different from others.

Seeing the white dragon that was engraved into his clothing, he seemed to be from the North Sea Ice Palace.

‘He must be the heir of the North Sea Ice Palace.’

Cho Ryu Hyang's prediction was correct.

After looking at the man for a moment, Cho Ryu Hyang became quite anxious.

He then bit his lips subconsciously.

’87.’

The man's potential was extremely large.

This was big enough for him to do something unpredictable.

Cho Ryu Hyang exited the formation and sighed.

His neck hurt.

Cho Ryu Hyang made his decision as he rubbed the back of his neck.

‘I need to control the formation as little as possible.’

It would be easy for that man to attack if Cho Ryu Hyang entered the formation more.

But lessening the amount of times he controlled the formation was easier said than done.

It would be hard to use the formation to its full potential otherwise.

The formation in Sichuan was big and powerful, but the length of time it could be sustained was very small.

‘Just a day.’

Within that time, he would need to take care of all his enemies.

Cho Ryu Hyang loosened his muscles and focused on the formation completely.

Gu Hui stopped in his spot as he rubbed his ear.

He looked around with an annoyed face.

Around the time when Juk Hyul Myung had been looking for him, he had been looking for Juk Hyul Myung as well.

But Juk Hyul Myung's presence had completely disappeared once he entered the formation.

‘How strange.’

He had maintained a certain distance from the North Sea Ice Palace when he entered.

But then, those in front of him had disappeared.

At the same time, an immensely cold air struck the Nanman Beast Gate.

‘This is.....’

By the looks of it, the formation had just activated.

The first change had occurred, after all.

After looking around for a bit, Gu Hui looked back at his people

and opened his mouth.

“We’ll break through using pure strength, so you better be ready.”

“Understood.”

Gu Hui breathed carefully and looked somewhere.

‘So it’s there.’

Gu Hui had studied formations a long time ago.

He had felt attracted to the subject as much as he was attracted to martial arts.

But he gave up on learning it in the middle.

There was never really a need to delve deeper into the subject, and he knew that he needed to focus more on martial arts.

‘The formation here is amazing, but.....’

Of course, Gu Hui was unable to create nor destroy a formation like this.

But he knew he could protect himself inside a place like this.

‘And.....’

If his prediction was right, this formation would not last long.

This formation was definitely something that was created in a relatively short period of time.

It wasn't made over a long period of time with extreme care.

And the fact that something this big was made in such a short time must mean that there was a flaw in it.

After all, nothing was perfect.

‘This is a battle with time.’

Gu Hui decided that the biggest flaw of this formation was time.

This was a won battle as long as they could endure.

‘For now.....’

He needed to break through the first change.

Gu Hui made a low posture and pulled his right arm backwards.

He put strength into his belly and punched forward.

Kwaaaaa-!

It was a simple punch.

But the weight contained in that one punch seemed to rival even Mt. Tai.

The air ripped apart, and a pathway big enough for a single man had appeared.

Gu Hui quickly walked into the hole, and his subordinates followed.

And Cho Ryu Hyang's focus immediately shifted from Juk Hyul Myung to Gu Hui.

‘This time, it’s the Nanman Beast Gate.....’

Cho Ryu Hyang smiled bitterly.

Problems just seemed to be rising one after the other.

It seemed that there was more than just one variable he hadn't accounted for.

‘At least two.’

It was almost nonsensical.

That punch just now was aimed right at the spot where the formation was the weakest.

The first change was destroyed in an instant.

The man here was definitely more dangerous than Juk Hyul Myung.

‘He definitely knows about formations.’

His instincts were screaming warnings at him.

That man who punched just now had to know about formations.

Otherwise, it would be impossible to throw a punch at such a precise location.

Cho Ryu Hyang focused at the spot where Gu Hui was.

At that moment, he was able to see a muscular man who seemed

to be exuded an oppressive aura.

‘Nanman Beast Gate’s heir.....’

He knew the moment he saw.

He knew that the man was Gu Hui, the heir of the Nanman Beast Gate.

Cho Ryu Hyang touched his glasses and made his decision.

‘I didn’t want to control the formation, but.....’

Things would only get worse if the man managed to make his way here.

That man was simply too strong.

Cho Ryu Hyang steadied his breath and took out a single gem.

He watched Gu Hui for a moment, then stuck the gem in the direction he was moving.

‘This one will be hard to destroy.’

No matter how knowledgeable the Nanman Beast Gate’s heir was, there was no way the man found out everything about the

formation.

He wouldn't know how the formation was controlled, nor would he know what kind of traps were contained in it.

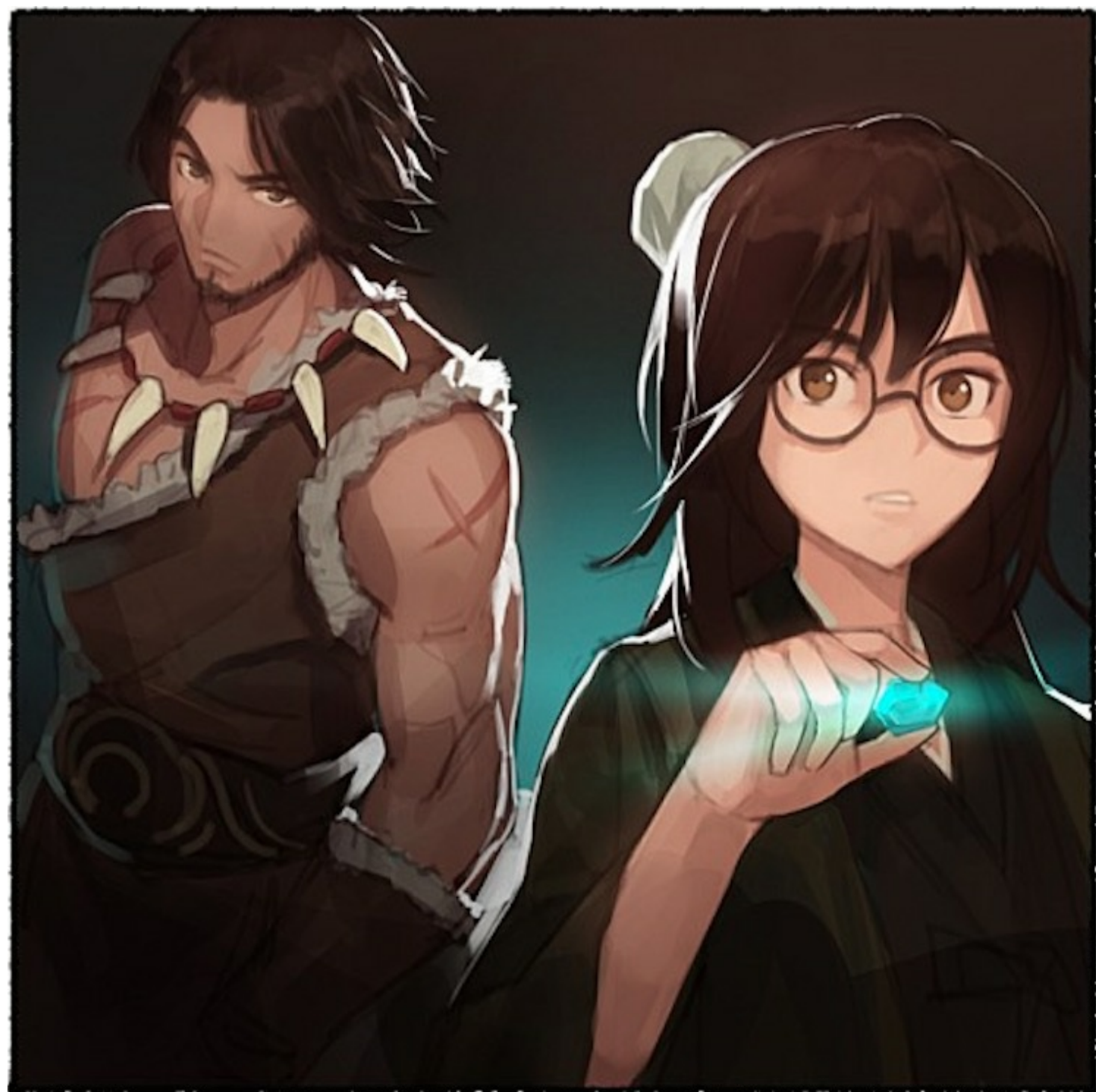
The same went for Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘A formation with an extremely large degree of freedom.’

That was what made this formation scary.

The Nine Flowing Army Formation was a formation that changed according to the circumstances.

And for Gu Hui, who did not know about such a thing, this was the beginning of his misfortunes.



Chapter 109. Everything's Going According To The Plan

Gongs Ahri spoke as she pet the white rabbit on her lap.

“Where were you all this time? I was worried.”

[.....]

The rabbit, who was currently sleeping with its belly exposed, was Maksu.

Gongson Ahri rubbed Maksu's cheeks, then discovered that there was a tiny leaf poking out of its belly and poked it.

Twitch-

The leaf moved away from Gongson Ahri's hand as if it was alive.

When Gorgon Ahri made a surprised face, Maksu suddenly stood up from his spot.

“What is it, Maksu?”

Maksu straightened his ears to listen for a bit, then sniffed the air a few times.

After this, he leaned left and right a few times, turned around, and began to run.

“Eh? Where are you going, Maksu?”

When Gongson Ahri followed Maksu, she realized they had arrived at the place where Cho Ryu Hyang was.

The drill hall of the Sichuan Branch.

Once she arrived there, Gongson Ahri paused for a bit.

That was because that child was there.

‘Cho Ryu Hyang.....’

Maksu ran towards Cho Ryu Hyang while Gongson Ahri hesitated.

Gongson Ahri turned the other way when she saw Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘How strange.’

She didn’t know why, but she felt the need to look at Cho Ryu Hyang, but her feelings were conflicting.

She felt good when their eyes met, but her chest hurt at the same time.

‘Why?’

The reason was simple.

She liked the child.

Gongson Ahri’s face reddened once she thought that much.

She was feeling embarrassed.

While that was going on, Maksu had already reached Cho Ryu Hyang.

Gongson Ahri saw this but was unable to move.

‘What shall I do?’

She wanted to talk to Cho Ryu Hyang by using Maksu as an excuse, but she couldn’t really do that nowadays.

Cho Ryu Hyang had become noticeably colder to her.

He just nodded when she said hello, and he always acted as if he was busy.

That made Gongson Ahri feel sad.

Gongson Ahri looked down at her clothes and sighed.

‘I should’ve come out in better clothes.....’

She hadn’t thought much about her clothing because of Maksu.



And there was one but person who was watching all this.

It was Sunwu Cho Rin.

‘Cho Ryu Hyang.....’

There was Cho Ryu Hyang at the end of Gongson Ahri’s gaze.

Just what did she like about that child?

Sunwu Cho Rin looked at Gongson Ahri with a complicated face, then turned around.

‘Focus.’

She needed to focus at her task in hand.

Sunwu Cho Rin tried her best to wait for the change that Cho Ryu Hyang had mentioned.

[What the hell did you do?]

Cho Ryu Hyang turned when he heard a voice next to him.

He knew that Maksu had come here from the start.

He just didn’t bother to talk to him.

“Can’t you tell?”

[Why do you think I’m asking?]

Maksu frowned and looked at the formation in front of Cho Ryu Hyang with strange eyes.

[Where did you learn this sort of thing? A formation that controls formations..?]

Maksu asked Cho Ryu Hyang a question with a shocked voice, but the boy chose to ignore the rabbit.

It would just be a waste of time to try and explain things now.

“Let’s talk later.”

Cho Ryu Hyang waved the rabbit away and focused on his formation once again.

Maksu looked at this dumbly, then turned to the formation as well.

‘Is this how he looks at the bigger formation?’

But no matter how much he tried to look, he was unable to see anything.

He decided to step in out of curiosity.

Then.....

Vuun-

‘Eh?’

He could see.

He was able to see multitudes of dots flowing in front of him.....

When Maksu made a surprised face, Cho Ryu Hyang pulled the rabbit back with a frown.

“Don’t watch without permission.”

[You..... Just that..... Were those dots all human?]

Cho Ryu Hyang paused when he heard this.

He brought the rabbit to his eyes and spoke.

“You could see those?”

[I managed to see dots, arrogant human.]

Cho Ryu Hyang looked at Maksu with an annoyed face.

‘So he really is special?’

A being that was not human.

This rabbit really must have something special going for him.

There was no way one could see dots inside the formation with normal eyes.

Even Cho Ryu Hyang had to use his Godly Eyes to see in the formation.

Maksu seemed to possess an ability to see things like this on instinct.

‘He isn’t normal, is it?’

Cho Ryu Hyang looked at Maksu with a curious gaze.

Maksu began to twist and shake as if he was getting tired of being hung in midair by Cho Ryu Hyang. The boy put the rabbit down carefully.

Maksu huffed and puffed angrily once he was put down.

[Do not treat me lightly, human. Do you even know what position I have in heaven? I may look like this now, but once I

ascend, all beings will look at me venerably.]

The rabbit spoke arrogantly out of anger.

Looking at this, Cho Ryu Hyang smirked.

“Cute.”

[.....!]

When Cho Ryu Hyang said this and turned away, Maksu began to shout in outrage.

But the boy just decided to ignore all this.

The reason why he had turned away wasn't because of Maksu, though.

‘Gongson Ahri.....’

He had felt her standing far behind him.

The moment he saw her, he turned away.

‘Why?’

He asked himself why he was like this, but he didn't really have an answer to it.

Everything he came up with seemed no more than a poor excuse.

‘How annoying.’

He felt annoyed when he thought that he was just being an idiot by himself.

Gongson Ahri was acting normal to him, but he wasn't.

Cho Ryu Hyang cursed his own cowardliness and went back to work.

He was afraid that his thoughts would begin turning into audible words otherwise.

Gu Hui made an astounded face when he saw the ocean in front of him.

Chuaa-

The waves struck the coast and created white bubbles.

At the same time, a salty smell struck Gu Hui's nose.

“.....Wait.”

Gu Hui looked forward after speaking to his subordinates.

Right now, he was extremely confused.

From what he knew, there weren't supposed to be formations that changed so drastically like this.

This was why he did not know what he was to do as of yet.

‘There is no weak point?’

The only reason why he was able to pass the first change so easily was because there was a weak point in the formation.

But things were different now.

There was no weak point.

Gu Hui slowly moved along the coastline and tried moving his toes in a certain way.

After doing so, he frowned.

‘This isn’t it either?’

Normally, a formation would reveal a part of its true form once a person used either the Mountain King Steps or the Heavenly Master Steps.

These two steps were two of the many techniques to destroy a formation. Gu Hui tried using other techniques, but he didn’t get anything.

The formation refused to react.

‘Not reacting.....’

This was strange.

Gu Hui looked forward at the sea with squinted eyes.

This formation was indeed very powerful.

But it didn’t even harm anyone.

‘What is their plan?’

Gu Hui would be the one to benefit the more time was spent.

This should be something the creator of the formation should know better than anyone.....

Did he have a different plan?

As Gu Hui and Juk Hyul Myung thought this to themselves,

The experts of the Alliance were being slowly disintegrated by Cho Ryu Hyang's trap.

The woman who seemed to be a leader amongst a group of female experts spoke once a red light flashed ahead.

“Put them in.”

With the command, the 20-30 experts in the group inserted the nets in their hands deep inside.

They seemed to be trying to catch something in midair.

A few people brightened once they seemed to have caught something.

“Got them.”

“What are you doing, then? Pull it up?”

The experts quickly pulled up their nets.

Something big seemed to come out with a little bit of resistance.

“.....It really worked?”

This was something that even the commander was unsure of.

What these experts were catching with their nets weren't fish.

They were humans.

The commanders quickly brought the shocked subordinates back to their senses.

“Subdue them and keep capturing more.”

“Understood!”

The subordinates seemed much more lively than before.

This was because they now understood what the heir's commands meant.

“A fisher who fishes men.....”

This was what the heir called this tactic.

Because of the strange name, Sunwu Cho Rin smiled.

She hadn't realized what the heir was talking about back then.

No, the tactic was so obvious that she didn't know what it was.

“To think I would actually end up fishing people.....”

Sunwu Cho Rin could only be astounded when she saw enemies being dragged out and being suppressed immediately.

Just how would a formation have to work in order to make something so strange like this happen?

Against experts at that.....

Not even she had expected to be able to take down experts as easily as this.

But as time passed, problems began to arise.

“.....Did the heir expect something like this to happen as well?”

Sunwu Cho Rin clicked her tongue at the experts that began to resist.

The heir most definitely expected this as well.

“Do not look down on the Alliance!”

It was Qing Song Ja.

Even when exhausted, he was able to fight like a peak expert.

And because of that, several experts were able to come under his wings to fight.

‘Did he send me here to fight people like that?’

Indeed, the heir was smart.

Sunwu Cho Rin had to admit that.

Her job was to take care of experts like those.

But as she ran towards Qing Song Ja, she paused for a second.

Wouldn't it be easier to kill everyone using the formation, not

them?

Wouldn't that cost less people and be easier as well?

Did the heir just not think that far?

'For now.....'

Sunwu Cho Rin quickly shook her head when suspicion rose up in her head.

For now, getting rid of the old expert was the most important.

She shouldn't get the order mixed up.

After taking a deep breath, Sunwu Cho Rin tightened the grip on her whip and narrowed her eyes.

Then she carefully looked at Qing Song Ja, who was spraying sword qi everywhere.

In a few moments, Sunwu Cho Rin's eyes widened.

At the same time, a mad smile appeared on her face.

Sunwu Cho Rin moved like lightning.

‘I’ll take you out with a single blow, old man.’

She needed to beat him as fast as possible.

After all, the other side was as strong as her.

Sunwu Cho Rin’s smile deepened as she neared the old expert.

Her murderous aura got stronger as well.

Shuiiii-!

Qing Song Ja began to shoot out sword qi at her as he began to feel danger.

But.....

‘Too late.’

Chuaa-!

The whip in Sunwu Cho Rin’s hands dodged the sword qi and penetrated towards Qing Song Ja.

It was a perfect attack executed at the perfect time.

Stab-

The tip penetrated itself deeply inside Qing Song Ja.

“K, kuh!”

Qing Song Ja looked at the whip incredulously.

And as he tried to grab onto the whip.

Chuaa-!

Sunwu Cho Rin took it out with a grin.

There was some blood, but she didn't care.

“This is the beginning.”

This was only the beginning.

Chapter 110. Resolution

“.....Shit, I fell for it.”

“Fell for what? Is there a problem, Senior Brother?”

“Yeah. A big problem.”

Juk Hyul Myung chewed his nails as he became angry at his own stupidity.

“To strike at the weak points..... Damn, so he’s pretty smart, huh?”

It looked like the enemy had taken care of the weak ones around him first.

‘Why’d I realize this now?’

Juk Hyul Myung frowned, and looked around.

The huge presence from before had disappeared.

The enemy seemed to be extremely careful in his actions.

He had felt something move slightly, but since it was far away, Juk Hyul Myung couldn’t move.

It wasn't like he could leave Ju Da Hye alone.

“Shit. Shit.....!”

He was frustrated.

He knew what the creator of the formation was trying to do, but he didn't know how to stop the bastard.

‘Is there really no way?’

After thinking a bit, Juk Hyul Myung shook his head.

There was always a way to solve something.

He just hadn't found it yet.

Juk Hyul Myung grabbed onto Ju Da Hye's hands that had gotten themselves tightly woven around their waist.

“Let go, it's annoying.”

“No!”

“I'm telling you, you don't have to do this? I won't run away?”

“Still, no!”

Juk Hyul Myung was unable to understand why the girl was doing this.

He didn't understand with his current understanding of a female's mind.

“It's hot.”

“Just endure it.”

“.....Why the hell are you like this?”

Ju Da Hye grabbed onto Juk Hyul Myung even tighter than before instead of responding.

Juk Hyul Myung was annoyed by this, but he didn't do anything.

He just didn't want to solve things by force.

“Damn it, do what you want.”

“.....You can't run from me now, Senior Brother.”

“I’m telling you, I won’t run.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. What am I going to do if I leave you behind? Teacher’s going to kill me if I do that.”

Ju Da Hye smiled after hearing this.

But that smile was not one of happiness, but rather one of bitterness.

“Eh? Why are you smiling?”

Although Ju Da Hye smiled behind Juk Hyul Myung, Juk Hyul Myung didn’t miss her smile.

He was an expert, after all.

“You don’t need to know.”

Ju Da Hye forced herself to smile brightly.

She needed to look happy.

At least in front of Juk Hyul Myung, she needed to look happy.

That was what he liked of her.

She didn't want to look sad and depressing in front of him.

“You seem to have a lot of secrets nowadays?”

“I had a lot of secrets from the start?”

“Really?”

“You're actually kinda stupid, you know?”

“No way.”

Juk Hyul Myung scratched his head in confusion.

Come to think of it, this girl was the only senior sister who would talk to him for a long time.

Was it because he teased her a lot, as she felt like a younger sister?

It seemed that she was scared of him leaving her behind.

‘I would never do that.’

Juk Hyul Myung had merely teased the girl all these years.

He would never do something like leave her behind when things got a little hard.

‘He said he wouldn’t run.’

Ju Da Hye understood Juk Hyul Myung’s words a little differently.

And she then sighed inside.

‘Please understand my actions. I can’t help but do it.’

Honestly, Ju Da Hye wasn’t interested in how dangerous their current situation was.

As long as the Senior Brother was there, everything would work itself out.

But.....

‘He wouldn’t know how I feel about him.....’

Juk Hyul Myung definitely wouldn’t know of how she was feeling.

He probably wasn't even interested.

It made her feel hurt.

It made her feel sad.

‘Since when was it all like this?’

From the start, she had always liked her Senior Brother.

But the Senior Brother was so amazing that she couldn't even approach him easily.

Ju Da Hye strengthened her grip even more on Juk Hyul Myung's waist.

‘Let me be like this for just today.’

A person who was like a sparkling star in the night sky.

It was just for a single day, but Ju Da Hye was able to think of this person as hers.

Her Senior Brother's back was large, and warm.

Juk Hyul Myung felt his Junior Sister behind his back, and sighed.

He didn't know what the enemy was doing, but he could not move.

But he wouldn't be able to do anything like this.

It wasn't like he could wait for death either.

Juk Hyul Myung looked around, and steadied his breath.

Now wasn't the time to try to restrain himself.

A huge amount of energy began to move around Juk Hyul Myung's body.

“We'll charge through.”

Around the time when Juk Hyul Myung began to gather strength, Gu Hui was trying to do something similar.

Thankfully, his situation was better off than Juk Hyul Myung's.

He still had his subordinates, and he knew of what would

happen.

Because of that, the Nanman Beast Gate was able to maintain a safe position without suffering from any damages.

But that would reach an end soon.

Gu Hui knew this, as he had realized what the enemy was doing.

‘He’s taking care of the Alliance.’

Leave the body be, and cut off the limbs.

It seemed to be a nice plan.

Seeing how he was like this, Juk Hyul Myung was probably imprisoned somewhere as well.

But this wasn’t very good for Gu Hui.

Gu Hui immediately calculated the amount of time he spent in here.

‘About 2 hours.....’

He wasted quite a bit of time here.

He had no idea how much the Alliance suffered, either.

Gu Hui looked around a bit, sighed, and gathered strength.

Krrr–

A hot energy appeared everywhere, but it did not spread. Instead, the energy gathered to a single spot.

That energy gathered onto Gu Hui's right leg.

‘Crimson Flame Kick.’

A light as bright as the sun poured out of Gu Hui's leg.

Kuaaa-!

The sea in front of them boiled away in an instant.

And in that same instant, more water poured in.

Seeing this, Gu Hui nodded.

It was for but a moment, but Gu Hui had seen a path.

“Follow me.”

After saying this, Gu Hui walked into the seawater.

The experts of the Nanman Beast Clan followed in without any questions.

In the dark sea, Gu Hui stared at the huge stone in front of him.

He punched the stone after approaching it.

Crack-

Something broke.

And with that, the pressure on Gu Hui's body disappeared.

“We were lucky.”

It looked like the enemy had no time to focus on them.

Thanks to that, they were able to get through easily.

But this result was actually quite obvious.

There were huge amounts of people in the formation. There was

no way for the enemy to be focused on everyone.

Trying to do that would be like suicide.

Gu Hui thought this as he walked through the path.

It was now time to kill the enemy.

‘He broke through now.’

Cho Ryu Hyang knew immediately that Gu Hui had passed through.

He had seen the gem that was used as the core for Gu Hui’s prison break.

‘This is the start.’

Unlike what Gu Hui had thought, Cho Ryu Hyang was actually focused more on Gu Hui than anyone else.

His subordinates would take care of the others.

This thought was what allowed Cho Ryu Hyang to do this.

‘My job right now would be to hold back that man.’

He needed to do this until the people of the Alliance were taken care of.

Cho Ryu Hyang took out another gem from his sleeves.

Then, he hesitated.

It wasn’t hard to modify the formation now.

But the heir of the North Sea Ice Palace was waiting for him.

That worried Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘What should I do?’

If he was unable to stop the Nanman Beast Gate because of the North Sea Ice Palace, all his preparations till now would be for naught.

But if he tried to modify the formation now, the heir of the North Sea Ice Palace would surely attack.

And if Cho Ryu Hyang allowed that to happen, the formation itself could potentially break apart.

After thinking a bit, Cho Ryu Hyang came to a conclusion.

‘There’s no choice.’

He couldn’t afford to have the formation fall apart, nor could he afford to have the Nanman Beast Gate get out of the formation.

Right now, it was difficult to deal with Juk Hyul Myung and Gu Hui, as both of them were going all out.

If they were being like this, Cho Ryu Hyang would have to embrace danger as well.

Cho Ryu Hyang stood up.

He walked out of the formation he had been sitting in, and opened his mouth.

“I’m going to have to go in there.”

“Ehh? Isn’t that dangerous?”

When No Jin Nyung said this in alarm, Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

“It’s dangerous. But there’s no choice.”

Right.

There was no choice other than to do this.

He need to take drastic measures.

“No Jin Nyung needs to stay here and take care of something. I will be entering the formation with Un Hui.”

[Understood.]

When Un Hui appeared out of the darkness and nodded, No Jin Nyung violently shook his head.

“Ehh? Why are you leaving me like this?! That guy can’t even fight? I can take that weakling down with just my breath right now?”

“.....”

When Un hui tried to say something in anger, Cho Ryu Hyang stopped him.

Then, the boy turned to No Jin Nyung.

No Jin Nyung seemed determined to go with Cho Ryu Hyang.

And that determination seemed to work on Cho Ryu Hyang.

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded, and opened his mouth.

“Alright. If you want to go that much, I’ll take you with me.”

“Waah! Yay!”

When No Jin Nyung smiled in satisfaction, Cho Ryu Hyang spoke.

“First off, you need to memorize the steps that I’ll teach you when entering the formation. There’s 133 types of steps you will need to know, and you’ll need to apply them differently. You’ll need to move according to the changes in the formation.”

“.....Eh?”

“I’ll tell you about them now.”

When Cho Ryu Hyang tried to speak, No Jin Nyung quickly stopped the boy with his hands.

“S, stop!”

“Yes? What is it?”

“I think Un Hui’s more suitable for this operation. Hehe, I’ll just

wait here in case of any danger.”

Cho Ryu Hyang stared at the man in front of him, then nodded.

“Understood. Do what you want.”

“Right. Hehe.”

No Jin Nyung stepped back as he scratched the back of his head.

He wasn't confident with these kinds of things.



Cho Ryu Hyang turned to Un Hui, and spoke.

“Ready?”

“Yes, sir.”

“I’ll tell you about the steps now.”

Un Hui nodded as Cho Ryu Hyang taught him about the steps.

By the time Cho Ryu Hyang told him again just to be sure, Un Hui had already memorized them.

Un Hui. He truly was a genius.

After telling Un Hui the steps twice, Cho Ryu Hyang walked into the formation.

It was time to face his enemies.

Once he entered the formation, Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes turned colder than ever.

Chapter 111. Gu Hui Meets Cho Ryu Hyang

“Did things progress faster than I had expected? I didn’t think we’d be able to leave so soon.”

The middle-aged man who said this as he walked out was Gongson Chun Gi, the leader of the Heavenly Demon Church.

“So there’s about ten days left till we get to Sichuan?”

“Yes. We’ll arrive in about ten days.”

“How exciting. You also worked hard to speed things up, Guardian Jeon.”

Jeon Bak shrugged as he opened his mouth.

“I didn’t do much. Actually, the heir did most of the work.”

“Really?”

“Since he managed to take care of such immense amount of salt in a remarkably short time, things became very easy for us.”

“Right... Well, the kid is pretty brilliant. His ideas were really something.”

“Yes. Thanks to this, we were able to go to Sichuan ourselves along with the extra supplies we were going to bring. This alone is a huge profit. I’m almost tempted to kowtow towards the heir right now.”

Gongson Chun Gi looked at Jeon Bak fiddle with his abacus and smiled.

“You seem to have taken a liking to my disciple?”

“Of course. The heir is a saviour to the church in many ways.”

Jeon Bak was thankful towards the heir for taking care of the salt issue, as well as for becoming the heir of the church.

In his eyes, Cho Ryu Hyang was a savior.

“I’m glad you think that way. There are a lot of people who are quite jealous of the boy’s talent. After all, doing too well is a problem in itself, don’t you think?”

“.....”

Despite what he said, Gongson Chun Gi had a proud grin on his face.

Because of Cho Ryu Hyang’s achievements, he had been hearing all sorts of praises for his disciple from his peers.

Gongson Chun Gi acted like it was nothing every time he heard it, but he was secretly enjoying all the praises.

Jeon Bak looked at the Pope for a moment, he put down his abacus, and opened his mouth.

“The Four Powers are making their move.”

“I know.”

“They’re probably attacking the heir by now.”

“They are? It is about time, after all.”

“.....Aren’t you worried?”

Jeon Bak made a confused expression.

According to his sources, the power that the enemies possessed was far greater than the one the church possessed.

It would be stupid to fight them head-on.

‘But.....’

Surprisingly enough, the heir decided to confront them.

It was a stupid illogical decision.

Gongson Chun Gi realized what Jeon Bak was thinking and smirked.

“You think it’s strange that I’m not worried about the boy?”

“.....”

“Worries are only reserved for people that you don’t trust, or for the actions that these people do.”

Gongson Chun Gi sat down on a boulder near the carriage and continued talking.

“You see, I’m not worried about the boy, not even one bit. The boy himself might not know it, but in order to kill him, an expert as strong as me would need to take part in the battle.”

“.....”

Jeon Bak made a face full of disbelief.

Who was Gongson Chun Gi?

He was the person who reached a level that no one else in this world could reach.

And to think that a person like this would have to make their move to kill the heir.....

But as Gongson Chun Gi wasn't a person who'd lie about such things, Jeon Bak's face was again filled with confusion.

Gongson Chun Gi put a cigarette to his mouth as he watched this and smiled.

“You say that the Four Powers made their move? Tsk tsk, they made a foolish decision. The kid can't be killed with mere numbers.”

Gongson Chun Gi chewed on the cigarette while he grinned playfully.

“Hehe, and the fun thing is, not even the boy knows how strong he has become. Can you believe it?”

“.....Is that so?”

Gongson Chun Gi nodded.

“You see, the boy grew so fast that he couldn't even sense what happened. Well, that would probably cause a few side effects, but

that can be ignored for now... Anyway, this would be the perfect chance for the boy to check how strong he has become. Kehehe...”

Jeon Bak shook his head as he watched Gongson Chun Gi grin evilly.

It didn't really matter whether or not the Pope's words were true.

Let's just say that Gongson Chun Gi was exaggerating a little at the moment.

Even if that was the case, the heir's power should be enough to block off an attack from the Four Powers.

‘If that were to happen...’

Many things would change.

First, it would announce the heir's presence into the martial world.

This would be an event big enough to shake the entire world by its roots.

And so, the event that was to be known as the Second Alliance-Demon War would begin.

‘How strange.’

Gu Hui stopped walking and began to look around himself.

He frowned, put his right hand up into the air, and balled it up into a fist.

With that signal, the martial artists of the Nanman Beast Gate came to a stop behind him.

‘We passed this place before.’

How did he not realize it?

It was strange.

It was strange for him to not recognize a path that he had just walked through.

He had never made such mistake before.

Gu Hui closed his eyes.

After a moment, Gu Hui opened his eyes into small slits.

‘As I thought, I made no mistake.’

He went back the path he walked through multiple times in his head.

But no matter how many times he did so, he could not find any mistakes in the paths he chose to go through.

Then, there was only one explanation for this phenomenon.

Gu Hui looked around himself with bright eyes.

‘So it’s him.....’

The person who made the formation.

This might be possible if this was done by the person who made the formation.

This must mean that the creator of the formation was paying attention to him the most, but wouldn’t that be a huge risk?

‘So he chose me amongst all the others?’

Gu Hui made a concerned face.

He decided to review the invisible enemy in front of him once

again.

Was it because he was being too obvious in getting through the formation?

Things would become annoying if the creator of the formation became wary of him.

Gu Hui clicked his tongue.

‘How annoying.’

If he had a bit more time, he probably could have gotten through the formation.

The formation that he was currently in was indeed amazing.

‘Well, the formation by itself is amazing, but.....’

But as Gu Hui had an immense power that stemmed from his martial arts skills, he should be able to break through the formation sooner or later.

After all, he already passed through two of the barriers of the formation, did he not?

‘I must find him.’

Perhaps this was good.

If the creator of the formation involved himself with Gu Hui, it would make things much easier.

Just catching the creator would change the flow of the battle entirely.

‘I’ll have to check first.’

He needed to confirm his thoughts.

The way to do this was simple.

If the creator was watching him, then Gu Hui would just have to create a situation where the creator would have no choice but to move.

“March.”

When Gu Hui said this, the martial artists of the Nanman Beast Gate began to walk forward.

Gu Hui got in the middle of the group, and kept his guard up; he was looking for a chance to attack.

He put down his hands and slowly walked with the rest of the group.

Ch, chiii–

The fingers of his hands began to let out tiny strings of energy that scratched the ground softly.

Gu Hui looked at this carefully, and whenever the strings changed direction, he directed the group towards the way the strings were going.

Cho Ryu Hyang became amazed as he saw this.

‘He found me.’

Cho Ryu Hyang pushed his glasses up as he observed Gu Hui.

It seemed that the other side had noticed his presence.

‘Just how?’

Cho Ryu Hyang was a little surprised to be found out like this.

But what was even more concerning at the moment was the way that this person was trying to get through the formation.

He was trying to use the simplest, but the most reliable method of breaking through formations.

‘Should I make my move?’

If he did, he would just prove to the other side that he was watching.

After thinking, Cho Ryu Hyang made a decision.

It was hard to hide his moves like this anyway.

Plus, the situation might worsen if he let someone like this be.

Therefore, he needed to fight the man now.

Cho Ryu Hyang took one of the stones on the ground, and pulled it up.

Vuun-

The view around him shook for a moment, and he, along with Gu Hui, began to fade from the scene.

‘I can’t let him pass just like that.’

Around the time when Cho Ryu Hyang thought this, Gu Hui had

come to a stop in his tracks.

His eyes, along with that of the martial artists, all pointed upwards. Gu Hui had a slight smile on his face.

“How interesting.”

A giant door had appeared in front of them.

If this wasn't a challenge for them, then what else?

He could feel the other side taunting him to get inside. This made him laugh.

If he didn't accept a challenge like this, he wouldn't be a man.

“We're going in.”

The only way one could catch a tiger was to get into its lair.

Gu Hui opened the door and walked in.

He was greeted by two people inside.

“.....Hoh?”

Inside the gate was an empty space filled with mist. Within this mist was a boy in glasses and a man wearing a mask.

‘He is.....’

The masked man was a harmonious expert.

A strong one, at that.

Gu Hui smiled.

‘But he is not my match.’

The man wasn’t mature enough yet.

Things might change given time, but right now, the man was weak.

Gu Hui turned to the kid.

It was strange.

This wasn’t a place that anyone could get into, and yet...

‘Could it be?’

Gu Hui opened his mouth.

“Are you the heir of the church?”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded without saying anything.

As he had thought, the boy was the heir of the church.

Why did the boy reveal himself?

‘No, that’s not important right now.’

The intent of the other side wasn’t important.

The battle was already over, after all.

“I came here to kill you.”

It was an honest, and straightforward situation.

Cho Ryu Hyang didn’t seem intimidated at all by this, however.

He simply responded dryly back to the man.

“You think you can kill me?”

“Of course I do.”

The boy couldn't run.

Not anymore, now that he was within Gu Hui's sights.

Whoosh-

Gu Hui's presence began to get stronger.

At the same time, the mist around him disappeared completely.

Shuaaa-

Un Hui flinched at this time.

‘Dangerous.’

His instincts were going wild.

Right now, this entire area was within Gu Hui's control.

It would be impossible to ensure the safety of the heir if they continue there.

They needed to run.

But Un Hui was unable to move.

This was because Cho Ryu Hyang had given him a ‘command’ before they came in here.

[Don’t run, no matter what happens. Only run when I tell you to do so.]

Because of this command, Un Hui wasn’t able to do anything.

‘How amusing.’

If he just extended his hand now, the boy would die.

The mission would end that easily.

‘No, the mission wasn’t that easy, huh.’

It was pretty hard to get here, even with this many martial artists.

The battle wasn’t that easy when he took this into account.

Cho Ryu Hyang, who managed to read a bit into Gu Hui’s mind, smirked, and took off his glasses.



‘Does he think I’m already caught or something?’

Does the man not know that he still had plenty of cards on his sleeve?

Cho Ryu Hyang expected something like this to happen, but it was still annoying.

‘I’ll make him realize his mistakes properly.’

After putting his glasses in his sleeves, Cho Ryu Hyang opened his mouth.

“I, too, have no intentions of leaving you alive. But if you apologize right now and promise to leave, I’ll let you go just this once.”

“...What?”

Gu Hui’s eyes began to tremble.

Was this kid serious?

Was he even aware of who he was talking to?

When he stretched out his hand to take away an arm from the boy out of anger, Cho Ryu Hyang spoke.

“You must be Gu Hui, correct?”

“.....You said that even when you knew who I was, boy?”

“.....Eighty-five.”

“What?”

Cho Ryu Hyang drew a line on the sandy floor under him.

Gu Hui observed this and looked back at Cho Ryu Hyang.

“To be honest, I’ve never faced someone this strong. But.....”

Cho Ryu Hyang thought of something that was far from being a human and smiled.

“I have faced a monster stronger than you before.”

Right.

He had fought to death with a monster that was worse than Gu Hui in the past.

Gu Hui looked coldly at Cho Ryu Hyang’s smile.

He was absolutely full of killing intent.

Chapter 112. Gu Hui, The Tooth Of A Beast

Gu Hui's shoulders shook lightly.

His actions had no warning whatsoever, and when Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes began to widen from surprise, Un Hui's body moved like a shadow in front of Cho Ryu Hyang.

Tukakaka-!

A cloud of dust rose up, and a huge movement of inner energy blew Cho Ryu Hyang's hair upwards.

"Your body is injured."

"....."

Un Hui was unable to say anything.

He was right.

His body was still recovering.

"How interesting. Just how long do you think you can hold on?"

"....."

Un Hui desperately tried to manage the injury inside himself.

He had expected the attack's trajectory and prepared himself to take it, but the energy that flowed into him from the attack was even more massive than he had thought.

‘To think a light attack would be like this...’

Even for experts in the harmonious stage, the difference in power existed.

The man in front of Un Hui wasn't someone he could take on, even when he was in his best condition.

Right then, Cho Ryu Hyang, who was standing behind Un Hui, stepped sideways, and opened his mouth.

“So, a refusal, then?”

Gu Hui's lips twitched.

“What?”

Was this boy a madman?

Did he really not realize what kind of situation he was in?

Right then, the little boy opened his mouth and had a chilly gaze in his eyes.

“Don’t you regret your decision.”

“.....”

It almost seemed like the boy spat out his words.

Gu Hui, at this moment, felt uncomfortable for an unknown reason.

What was this feeling?

The moment he thought about this, he realized why he was feeling like this.

‘His eyes, huh?’

The eyes that the kid had wasn’t that of a madman’s.

‘They are the eyes of someone carefully analyzing the situation, devoid of any emotion.’

Those eyes were those of someone who was far above somebody else.

Cho Ryu Hyang drew another line across the one he drew already on the floor, forming a cross.

Gu Hui, after seeing this, made a surprised face.

‘That kid was the one who made the formation?’

Now that he thought about it. This situation in itself was peculiar.

There was no reason why the heir would just appear, was there?

And just who would have the gall to be so calm in a massive formation like this?

After thinking this far, Gu Hui began moving.

He realized that this was not the time to fool around.

There was a powerful warning signal going on in his mind.

‘Kill.’

Gu Hui’s hands began to turn red like the sunset.

Un Hui, upon seeing this, took out his sword and lowered his posture.

‘Block.’

He had to block.

He had to prevent the man from even touching the heir.

As long as he, Un Hui, was alive, Gu Hui wouldn’t be even able to get near the heir.

Grit-!

Un Hui bit down on his teeth and prepared himself to receive the strike.

“You think you can block it?”

“.....”

You dare think you had even the qualifications to block the attack?

Gu Hui was planning on using his most powerful move right from the get-go.

It was unfortunate that he would not be able to play with the man in front of him right now, but there was no choice.

He had to kill the boy before anything strange happened.

If he didn't do that, things would quickly become extremely complicated.

‘Loyal Flame Fist.’

Once the amount of red energy on his fists reached its peak, Gu Hui charged at Cho Ryu Hyang.

Kuauuuung-! (The sound of piercing wind)

With it, the air around Gu Hui burned away with a reddish light.

The man was charging like a cannonball with an appearance that resembled a giant sun.

‘Hoooo.’

Un Hui caught his breath and exhaled slowly.

Then, he drew a circle in front of him using the sword in his hand.

A grey light appeared on the path of the sword.

This was the strongest move that Un Hui knew so far.

The move that he created using everything he had seen and learned so far.

‘Joyful Dance of The Demon Sword.’

From the circle came an immense amount of power, and Un Hui’s body began to get sucked into the circle.

And the moment the two collided,

Cho Ryu Hyang opened his mouth.

“You can stop now.”

Un Hui smiled bitterly.

This wasn’t something that the boy could stop right now.

After all, neither of them were able to stop their attacks at this point.

‘But.....’

Un Hui was starting to feel a little confused.

Some time had already passed since the two used their moves, but they still hadn't collided.

The same face of confusion was on Gu Hui's face as well.

'This is.....'

No matter how much either of them ran, they didn't get nearer.

Gu Hui stopped walking and looked at Cho Ryu Hyang.

He frowned.

A feeling of danger passed by behind his back.

'Could it be.....'

When he slowly turned back, he could see that his subordinates had disappeared.

The formation changed.

Just a single moment.

It was just a single moment when he separated from them, but

that moment was enough to separate him from the group.

Gu Hui was filled with a feeling of desperation.

Whoosh-!

The boiling energy inside him disappeared.

‘So he was going for this from the beginning.....’

The boy provoked him in order to get him to move.

And the moment he made an irrational move, the boy separated him from everyone else.

‘How scary.’

Gu Hui took a look around himself.

The formation, as he expected, had no holes in it.

That boy had been controlling the area this entire time.

‘I’m useless.’

Grit-

Gu Hui bit down on his teeth.

He was getting angry at himself for being such an idiot.

He had made a huge mistake.

The boiling emotions inside him exploded for an instant, then faded away just as quickly as they came.

Gu Hui was furious.

He was furious at himself for being played by a child.

After pushing away his rage into one corner of his mind, Gu Hui attempted to analyze the situation calmly, and he reached a conclusion immediately.

‘I can’t fight him in the formation.’

Then what should he do?

There was only a single way to get out of this situation.

‘There’s not much time.’

The people he brought were elites from the Nanman Beast Gate.

Each one of them was powerful, but there was no guarantee that they could survive the formation.

It would be very hard for them to survive in a formation made by someone like this.

“.....Where did you send them?”

Cho Ryu Hyang put on his glasses and responded calmly.

“Here and there.”

“You’ve separated them?”

“Yes.”

“Then, what are you going to do to me?”

“I’m thinking about it.”

Cho Ryu Hyang responded honestly.

It was impossible to get someone like this with a formation he had now.

The best he could do was to tie the man down.

This made Cho Ryu Hyang feel very troubled about his next moves.

“Do you think that I wouldn’t be able to kill you?”

Cho Ryu Hyang tilted his head.

He was calculating if Gu Hui could do any harm to him.

Soon enough, he reached a conclusion.

“Of course.”

Cho Ryu Hyang was certain of his conclusion.

There was no way Gu Hui would even be able to touch him.

As long as Cho Ryu Hyang was focused, Gu Hui had no way of touching him.

“You are... not a martial artist.”

“.....?”

A sudden, seemingly random statement.

‘Is he trying to provoke me?’

There was no way Cho Ryu Hyang would be provoked by something like this.

Gu Hui looked at Cho Ryu Hyang with calm eyes and smirked.

“You constantly think about costs and benefits, and you try to calculate the future as best as you can. You are better off as a merchant.”

Cho Ryu Hyang twitched after hearing this.

The man was right.

But that was it.

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

“Correct. I am better off as a merchant, but does that change anything? Does knowing this help you get out of your predicament?”

“.....”

Cho Ryu Hyang's face didn't change one bit despite having heard an extremely insulting statement.

And with a tone that implied "what's the problem with that?", Gu Hui lost his ability to speak.

He had never come across anyone like this before.

After thinking for a moment, Gu Hui opened his mouth with a determined face.

"There seems to be a need to break open your stubborn skull."

"You think that's possible?"

Gu Hui nodded without hesitation.

Cho Ryu Hyang, seeing this, reviewed the situation Gu Hui was in once again.

Like before, he reached the conclusion that "it was impossible" for Gu Hui to get at him.

Right then, Gu Hui spoke.

"I'll show you myself."

“Go on.”

Cho Ryu Hyang was standing with his arms crossed.

According to his calculations, Gu Hui could see him but could never reach him.

After all, the distance between them, while seemingly small, was actually extremely large.

The Sichuan branch of the church was a place containing thousands of people.

The distance between Gu Hui and Cho Ryu Hyang was close to the size of the perimeter of this Sichuan branch.

As such, it was impossible for Gu Hui to get near him.

‘But he says that it’s possible?’

If it was, then he wanted to see it.

He wanted to see a variable that could exceed the calculations.

Gu Hui looked at this Cho Ryu Hyang quietly.

Even now, Gu Hui was considering if what he was doing was right.

‘This is a foolish act.’

Honestly, it would be good to just waste the boy’s time here.

After all, there were people other than him here.

Plus, he trusted Juk Hyul Myung.

That guy was sure to do something.

There was, in all honesty, no need for him to make a move.

‘But.....’

He was worried about his subordinates.

He didn’t know in what situation they were, and that worried him.

‘I don’t want to stress myself too much, but...’

Since a new variable came up, he no longer had a choice.

Gu Hui lifted his right arm.

Then, he began to gather his strength into it.

A red energy similar to the light of the sun began to come out of his body, then concentrated onto the tip of his fingers.

Wuun-

The air began to tremble violently with a dangerous sound.

‘Stay calm.’

Cho Ryu Hyang wasn’t afraid, even as he looked at Gu Hui’s movements.

He trusted his formation.

No matter how great the man’s move may be, there was no way the attack would come his way.

Cho Ryu Hyang trusted that.

Gu Hui’s eyes met with Cho Ryu Hyang’s.

Both of them were confident in their weapon’s strength, and soon enough, the value of their weapons would be proven.

Gu Hui, as he sweat profusely, lifted his right hand carefully.

Then, the energy in his hand turned into a red bead in front of him.

Un Hui, upon seeing this, widened his eyes.

That bead was the Gang Bead, a form of inner energy that one could only use by an extremely powerful expert.

Surprisingly enough, Gu Hui was almost as strong as the Three Emperors.

“Eat this.”

Cho Ryu Hyang looked at the red bead carefully.

The original speed of the Gang Bead was almost blinding.

But right now, it seemed to crawl towards Cho Ryu Hyang at a snail's pace.

‘Dangerous.’

Cho Ryu Hyang continuously calculated in his brain.

And he did all that he could to move himself further away from the bead.

Even so, the bead slowly moved closer to him.

‘This really is dangerous.’

Cho Ryu Hyang began to sweat.

The distance between he and Gu Hui was huge.

But that bead was crossing that gap between the two like lightning.

Around the time when Cho Ryu Hyang’s eyes shook from fear,

The bead came right in front of him.

And.

Crack-Craack-!

Something like glass broke in front of Cho Ryu Hyang.

At the same time, the bead’s speed began to speed up.

Despair floated into Cho Ryu Hyang's mind when he saw this.

There was no way to dodge that thing.

Baaang-!

Cho Ryu Hyang was sent flying back with a huge explosion.

When he fell down on the ground, he made a confused face.

He was too fine.

When he looked up, though, he managed to see that somebody had blocked the blow for him.

It was Un Hui.

Un Hui had blocked the blow for Cho Ryu Hyang.

This made Cho Ryu Hyang feel extremely thankful.

He had the strongest bodyguard, didn't he?

This made Cho Ryu Hyang smile.

“Thank you, Un Hui.”

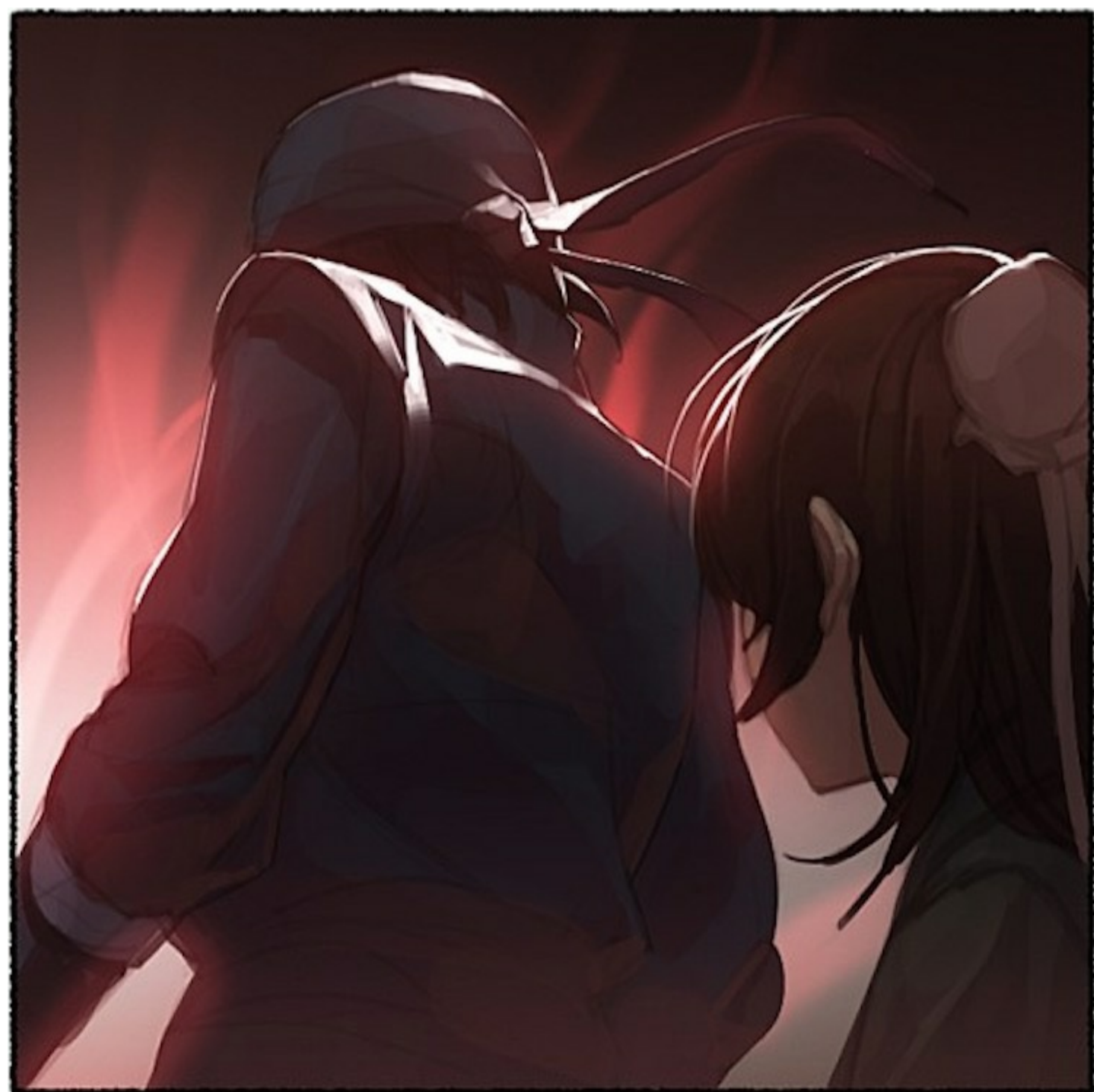
“.....”

Strangely enough, he didn't get a response.

This made a feeling of fright come over him.

Cho Ryu Hyang quickly stood up and grabbed Un Hui's arm.

And... his eyes widened.



Chapter 113. The Time To Choose

Un Hui's back bent without resistance when Cho Ryu Hyang caught his fall.

Cho Ryu Hyang felt his heart drop when he saw how powerless Un Hui was.

“Un Hui...?”

Un Hui opened his eyes slowly when he heard Cho Ryu Hyang say his name.

“Are... you... hurt?”

“.....”

Cho Ryu Hyang couldn't say anything.

He could only nod.

Un Hui smiled after seeing this.

“That's... good.”

Un Hui closed his eyes again.

Cho Ryu Hyang tried shaking him a few times but it was all in vain.

The man was dying.

Cho Ryu Hyang trembled as he looked at this.

‘It’s my fault. I was too arrogant.’

Right now, Un Hui was spewing blood out of his nose and mouth continuously.

When Cho Ryu Hyang saw this, he was instantly reminded of Jo Gi Chun’s last moments.

The same thing that was happening with Un Hui occurred at the moment of his teacher’s death, which resulted in causing Cho Ryu Hyang’s heart to beat faster and faster.

Dokun-Dokun-

It was beginning to get hard to breathe.

It felt like he was falling to the deepest part of hell.

And when Cho Ryu Hyang was about to hit the bottom,

The word that his teacher said to him rang in his mind.

[Live!]

Cho Ryu Hyang responded sharply to this voice.

Even whilst trembling violently from shock, he tried his utmost to check Un Hui's condition.

‘He's sustained heavy internal injuries. But more than that.....’

What truly made Un Hui this sick.

It was the injury in his waist.

Anyone could see that the wound was fatal.

Cho Ryu Hyang's normally calm eyes began to redden.

He looked back up and glared.

In front of him was Gu Hui. Their eyes met once again in the air.

Surprisingly enough, the one to speak first was Gu Hui.

“.....How is it, child? Does it feel good to have your pride

shattered like so?”

“.....”

Gu Hui’s entire body was filled with sweat, and this sweat all turned to steam as soon as it came out.

He, too, had expended an immense amount of energy from this.

But he was satisfied.

After all, he managed to shatter that little boy’s pride.

‘If they were just a bit further away.....’

If that were the case, then Gu Hui would’ve been the one to fall first.

Gu Hui pushed that thought aside for now and looked at Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘What will you do now, boy?’

Cho Ryu Hyang turned away from Gu Hui, then immediately looked to Un Hui.

He was trying to find something.

‘This is the Golden Prism pill..... this is.....’

He was able to find the pills he needed for emergency care immediately.

Un Hui had carried many pills with him at all times out of caution.

Cho Ryu Hyang remembered this, and he also remembered what types of pills Un Hui carried with him.

‘This is it.’

Cho Ryu Hyang opened the container Un Hui had treasured most and took out a small pill from it.

“The pill of the undying, was it?”

It was a pill that Un Hui had kept for Cho Ryu Hyang’s personal use.

Cho Ryu Hyang took it out immediately and put it into Un Hui’s mouth.

‘I won’t let you die.’

Cho Ryu Hyang bit his lower lip.

He kept his fingers in Un Hui's mouth, holding the pill down in case Un Hui tried to cough it out.

After a moment, Cho Ryu Hyang took out his finger and ripped a bit of his cloth off.

Rip-Riip-!

Gu Hui was watching him from a distance, but that didn't matter.

Right now, Un Hui's life was what mattered most.

It didn't even matter if Gu Hui were to use this time to destroy the formation.

'Not twice. I won't see anyone die under my watch twice.'

The first time.

The first time Cho Ryu Hyang saw someone die, he couldn't do anything about it.

At the time, he was powerless and didn't have the ability to do anything.

In fact, did he not almost go insane from his powerlessness?

‘Not anymore.’

Right now, he was different from his past.

Right now, he actually had the power to do something.

Because he knew this, Cho Ryu Hyang worked like a madman.

His body became dyed in Un Hui’s blood as he worked, but that did not matter.

‘I need to stop the bleeding.’

Cho Ryu Hyang applied the medicine on Un Hui’s injury and wrapped the wound with the fabric on his hand.

Then, he carefully observed Un Hui’s situation.

‘Please...’

He was desperate.

At the same time, he was afraid.

He had done everything that he could.

He could only wait now.

But if that didn't work?

Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes shook with fear.

'This is all because of me.....'

If something happened to Un Hui as a result of his arrogance, Cho Ryu Hyang wouldn't be able to bear his regret.

Cho Ryu Hyang's face became painted with impatience.

How much time passed?

Cho Ryu Hyang carefully put his finger on Un Hui's nose.

And after a moment.

Cho Ryu Hyang fell down on the floor.

"Ha... hahaha."

Thankfully, the medicine did have an effect.

Un Hui's breathing had gotten much smoother than before.

After checking on Un Hui several times, Cho Ryu Hyang put his hands down on the floor with an exhausted face.

He then turned to Gu Hui and flashed his eyes.

Gu Hui made a regretful face.

He had tried to break through the formation while the child was distracted, but he had failed.

Cho Ryu Hyang opened his mouth.

"I had almost lost a person precious to me due to my idiocy."

".....It's good that you have recognized your stupidity, boy."

Cho Ryu Hyang fixed his glasses.

His fingers that were on his glasses were trembling slightly.

"Gu Hui, was it?"

“Yes.”

“I’ll remember you. Thanks to you, I won’t be able to do stupid things ever again.”

Cho Ryu Hyang’s words had a different meaning to what he had said just now.

Gu Hui became curious of what the boy meant.

“What does that mean?”

“You’ll see, Gu Hui.”

Cho Ryu Hyang didn’t respond any further and put his outer clothes down on the floor.

He then put Un Hui’s body on those clothes.

Once Cho Ryu Hyang disappeared from plain sight, Gu Hui began to carefully search the area around him.

He didn’t have a good feeling about this.

Lim Hak Gyum showed himself from the shadows and

approached Gongson Ahri.

“Miss, you shouldn’t be in a place like this.”

Gongson Ahri became extremely surprised by Lim Hak Gyum but sighed once she realized that it was a familiar face.

“Oh, it’s you, Mr. Lim.”

“Yes, miss.”

Gongson Ahri walked over to Lim Hak Gyum and asked him a question.

“What’s Cho Ryu Hyang up to? Where did he go?”

Lim Hak Gyum grinned when he saw Gongson Ahri ask about Cho Ryu Hyang and opened his mouth.

“The young lord went into the formation to face his enemies himself.”

“Is he fine? Is he in any danger?”

“Of course he’s fine.”

Lim Hak Gyum spoke with a smile on his face, but in reality, he

was a nervous mess.

According to his sources, the people inside the formation were all the real deal.

‘Nanman Beast Gate, North Sea Ice Palace, and..... Kang Sebin.’

The ones that were actually hard to take out weren’t coming out of the formation.

It would be much better if the strong ones got out one by one so that they could take them out, but... it wasn’t easy.

Plus, the ones that got dragged out of the formation were all from the Alliance.

They were plenty annoying as well, but compared to the ones that are still inside, they were a child’s game.

Lim Hak Gyum let out a sigh.

At this time, No Jin Nyung, who had been roaming the edges of the formation with a nervous face, felt a presence near him and turned around.

“Nn?”

It was a rabbit.

A white rabbit was dipping one of its feet into the formation.

The rabbit seemed so focused that No Jin Nyung forgot about his worries for Cho Ryu Hyang.

‘What the hell is this?’

Come to think of it, this rabbit was suspicious.

Didn’t Cho Ryu Hyang talk to it every once in awhile as well?

In the past, No Jin Nyung had thought that there was nothing weird about Cho Ryu Hyang talking to animals since the boy had done pretty strange things in the past.

After staring at the rabbit for a while, No Jin Nyung tried touching the rabbit with the tip of his foot.

He really didn’t have any reason why he did this.

Tok-

The rabbit’s body got pushed away, and it got disconnected from the formation.

‘This bastard?’

The rabbit, Maksu, shot a vicious look at No Jin Nyung.

What the hell was the idiot doing?

He calmed himself down and put his leg back in the formation.

When he did this, he was able to see the insides of the formation.

‘Ohh, this is.....’

Maksu was excited.

Formations were not his strong point.

Actually, he wasn’t even interested in it till now.

Cho Ryu Hyang had awakened his interest in formations, and only now was he beginning to explore this new area of study.

But then.

Tok-

‘Eh?’

The picture in his mind disappeared and turned black.

Maksu was soon able to find out why.

‘This bastard?’

The idiot in front of him.

The idiot called No Jin Nyung was looking at him with a dumb grin.

Maksu flicked off the dust on his back and stood up.

Really, the man was an annoying fellow.

Then.

‘Ehh?’

Maksu made a strange face when he saw his entire world flip.

‘This is...’

He had experienced a similar thing before.

It was the thing that the annoying girl called Sunwu Cho Rin did to him in the past.

When he came back to his senses, he could see that this No Jin Nyung was humiliating him by rubbing his stomach.

‘T, this guy?’

Just what did the man thought he was?

Maksu tried to stand back up frantically, but No Jin Nyung stopped him from doing so with a laugh.

When he tried to stand, No Jin Nyung put him down, and when he tried to roll, No Jin Nyung would roll him back over.



Maksu glared at No Jin Nyung fiercely.

Seeing this, No Jin Nyung flinched.

‘Oops!’

Did he use his strength by accident?

That would make him break his promise with the kid?

Maksu stopped for a second.

When he did this, a childlike smile came on No Jin Nyung's face.

“Uhehehe, how cute.”

No Jin Nyung tapped Maksu's nose and got back to rubbing the rabbit's stomach.

The leaf on Maksu's stomach was intriguing him greatly.

‘Ueeeh!’

Maksu frantically tried to run, but it was pointless.

The fact that he was unable to show himself pained him.

‘T, this son of a bitch.....’

The more Maksu struggled, the more No Jin Nyung bothered Maksu.

And how long did this go on?

After a certain time, No Jin Nyung stopped all movements to look at a place next to him.

Vuun-

A part of the formation ripped open, and a bloody Cho Ryu Hyang walked out.

The smile on No Jin Nyung's face disappeared in an instant.

He moved to Cho Ryu Hyang with a shout.

“W, what happened, young lord?”

No Jin Nyung's face was colored with rage.

How had he got so hurt?

How did he get like this even with that creepy dude next to him?

No Jin Nyung, who looked around trying to find a way to let out his anger, made a dejected face after seeing what was on Cho Ryu Hyang's back.

“Why is this guy.....”

It was Un Hui.

The man was extremely injured.

Cho Ryu Hyang passed Un Hui to No Jin Nyung.

He then opened his mouth with a chilly face.

“Please take him to the doctor. I need to do something here.”

“...Understood.”

No Jin Nyung disappeared like the wind with Un Hui in his arms.

Cho Ryu Hyang watched No Jin Nyung leave, then turned to the formation after taking out a small pouch.

‘This is my time of revenge, Gu Hui.’

If one sinned, it was only fitting that he got punished for it.

That was the law of the world.

Cho Ryu Hyang carefully took out the gems in his pouch.

Chapter 114. The Reason Why The Black Moon Guild Didn't Make Its Move

“Things are getting interesting.”

A girl was looking over the Sichuan branch of the Heavenly Demon Church from a cliff.

The girl pulled back her red hair and smiled.

Neng Ha Young.

She had finally become a strategist of the Black Moon Guild.

Behind her was a nervous old man.

It was the Chasing Blood Demon, Sang Dong Ha.

He was the only harmonious expert within the Black Moon Guild.

This was only because the existence of Shi Yup hadn't been revealed to the world, yet.

“Is it really alright to step out of the alliance just like that?”

“Yes.”

A simple answer.

But Sang Dong Ha was clearly not pleased with her answer.

“We may be able to deal with the Alliance, but it will be hard to fight the North Sea Ice Palace and the Nanman Beast Gate. We won’t be able to win!”

Neng Ha Young nodded.

The old man’s words made sense.

But.

“I know well about that, but you don’t need to worry, elder.”

Sang Dong Ha flinched after hearing Neng Ha Young’s words and kept talking with a nervous face.

“Why? If we make ourselves enemies out of those people, we won’t ever be able to stop the Heavenly Demon Church. We need to take this time to strike the church while we still can.”

“No need. I have a plan.”

Neng Ha Young cut the man off and grinned.

That grin seemed somewhat unpleasant for some reason.

“If we get in the fight here, the balance of power would break. If this happens, the ones behind the shadows would become immensely happy.”

“The ones behind the shadows..?”

Neng Ha Young’s smile widened.

“You should know about them better than me, elder.”

“.....”

Sang Dong Ha’s face stiffened for a second.

He immediately straightened it, but the damage was already done.

Neng Ha Young, who had been staring directly into his face, opened her mouth.

“I thought it was strange from the start. We created an alliance called the Four Heavenly Powers to fight the Heavenly Demon Church, but it was inefficient and stupid. It shouldn’t have been created without the help of someone behind the scenes.”

“.....I have no clue of what you’re talking about.”

When Sang Dong Ha feigned ignorance, Neng Ha Young put her hand on an accessory on her head and opened her mouth.

“The Four Heavenly Powers is composed of groups that used to be at each other’s throats just yesterday. No matter what common enemy appeared in this world, it would be impossible for these groups to suddenly get together like nothing ever happened.”

Neng Ha Young looked straight into Sang Dong Ha’s frowning eyes.

“That is unless someone controlled everything behind the scenes.”

“.....Stop!”

“What did the imperial palace promise you, elder?”

Sang Dong Ha thought a bit, then made a bitter smile.

“.....You should stop there. If you keep talking, I really would have to kill you.”

A dangerous aura began to float out of Sang Dong Ha’s body.

Neng Ha Young took on the pressure from the aura directly and opened her mouth calmly.

“My soul is expensive. You have no ability to purchase it.”

“Are you being like this because of your grandfather? How amusing.”

Neng Ha Young stared directly into Sang Dong Ha.

Her transparent gaze immediately caused Sang Dong Ha to feel pressured.

‘Just because of a little girl.....’

Sang Dong Ha forced himself to calm down and gathered his strength into his hands.

‘Just one hit.’

She was just a little smart, and that’s all.

Her grandfather was a force to reckon with, but he could always cover this incident up with something else.

Dead people can’t speak, after all.

He should be able to make something up.

Plus, didn't he promise the imperial palace that he'd do something important?

'I just have to get over this well.'

Every mission had a crisis that followed with it.

One had to overcome this crisis if he was to reap the rewards of the mission.

He tried to console himself this way as he prepared to attack, but Neng Ha Young opened her mouth first.

"Humans are such simple creatures, aren't they?"

"....."

"They always move after seeing what's in front of them. They never think of looking back."

Back?

Sang Dong Ha looked back with a spooked face.

‘Is Neng Mu Gi here?’

A tremble of fear shook his body.

If Neng Mu Gi made his move, he wouldn’t be able to execute his plans.

But when he looked back, he did not find Neng Mu Gi.

There was a young man.

A young man with a sword in his hand.

The man was looking directly into Sang Dong Ha’s eyes.

‘Just when?’

When could anyone fool his senses and get this close?

The fact that the man was able to do that signified that this person could be stronger than him.

Neng Ha Young quietly opened her mouth.

“What’s more important is usually at the back. Isn’t that right, elder?”

“.....Who is this?”

A frightening aura was coming out of the young man.

It was truly a force to be reckoned with.

This aura that was akin to a giant wall made Sang Dong Ha think of someone.

When he thought this much, Sang Dong Ha's eyes widened.

‘The Night Emperor!’

It was Neng Mu Gi's technique.

It had the sharpness and the strength of Neng Mu Gi's power.

The young man's aura was very similar to that of Neng Mu Gi's.

“This man is my bodyguard.”

Sang Dong Ha dissipated his strength after hearing this and laughed.

“So he had an heir? Why did he hide it?”

“That’s a difficult question.”

He wouldn’t have aimed to become the leader if he knew that Neng Mu Gi had a disciple.

It was all a foolish act, wasn’t it?

He could only pay for his foolishness, now.

“Would you prefer to be arrested now on the spot, or would you rather see blood?”

“What would you want? Life? Or death?”

Neng Ha Young responded without hesitation.

“I would live, of course. After all, I’d always be able to come back as long as I’m alive.”

Sang Dong Ha nodded.

“You are young. This may be possible for you, but not for me. This is my last chance.”

Neng Ha Young closed her mouth.

She could understand why Sang Dong Ha schemed to do something with an outside power.

Sang Dong Ha looked down at his hands and opened his mouth.

“I invested most of my youth into the Black Moon Guild, but the one who had grown this organization with me chose to give it all to his useless son. Would you follow a useless leader, especially when you are more capable?”

“Of course I wouldn’t. I understand.”

“I’m saying that your father is useless.”

“I know. I acknowledge the fact that he’s useless. You know it, I know it. In fact, most people know this already.”

Neng Ha Young shrugged as she said this.

Sang Dong Ha became speechless after seeing this but nodded in the end.

“.....How cold. You’re just like your grandfather.”

“You can’t live in this world without being cold.”

This was the martial world.

If you couldn't be strong, or eviller than anyone else, you couldn't live.

"I would've understood if he made you the leader."

"It's too late for regrets."

Neng Ha Young smiled.

"But it's good that you admitted your mistake. I thought you'd have disappointed me till the end."

"There was no choice, was there? You trapped me perfectly."

Neng Ha Young smiled bitterly.

She didn't hate Sang Dong Ha.

After all, the man always did his best in everything.

But he was far too greedy this time.

Involving the imperial palace in this matter was akin to bringing in a tiger just to chase out a little fox.

His actions were too dangerous to be forgiven.

“You went too far this time. You should’ve known that they are a force that shouldn’t be reckoned with.....”

Sang Dong Ha smirked.

“You could control them, no? Why are you so afraid?”

“I wish you could’ve come to me instead of father. The Black Moon Guild in the future would change.”

Sang Dong Ha shook his head.

He smiled proudly and spoke.

“Change is good. And such things are always for the younger generation. This is not my stage.”

“Elder.”

“Don’t make me feel worse than I already do. This is enough.”

Neng Ha Young gave up.

She looked at Sang Dong Ha with a regretful face.

Sang Dong Ha left Neng Ha Young behind and looked straight at Shi Yup.

“I made you wait far too long, young friend. Careful not to look down on me just because of my age.”

“.....”

Shi Yup nodded quietly and lifted his sword up in the air as a sign of respect.

It meant that he would use his full strength in this battle, and it also signified that he was showing respect to one of the strongest experts of his time.

“I have no intention of dying easily. I haven’t lived an easy life, after all. You’ll really have to do your best here. Since I can gain everything by killing both of you here, I plan on doing my best as well.”

An extremely powerful aura began to come out of Sang Dong Ha.

He was prepared to fight.

Shi Yup raised his sword with a careful look.

He realized something a while back thanks to his bout with Juk

Hyul Myung.

This would be a great place to test ‘that’.

‘My sword was fast but weak.’

He needed a power that could pierce everything.

Only then could he properly help Neng Ha Young.

And once Shi Yup’s eyes got filled with a clear light,

Sang Dong Ha made his move.

Neng Ha Young looked down at Sang Dong Ha’s corpse, then turned away.

She didn’t feel good.

It was an expected death, but Sang Dong Ha was still a person who had looked after her from a young age.

He was almost like her actual grandfather.

Neng Mu Gi, who led the Black Moon Guild.

Sang Dong Ha, who supported Neng Mu Gi from the back.

After thinking of the past, Neng Ha Young let out a sigh.

‘Everything changes.’

Everything changed after Neng Mu Gi left.

Neng Ha Young knew better than anyone why Neng Mu Gi had left, but this was still very hard on her.

She stroked back her hair and turned her gaze.

She was looking at the Sichuan branch of the church.

‘I wonder how he’s doing.’

The heir of the church.

She had done everything to dig information about him.

No, just about everyone in the martial world was doing everything to dig information on him.

The reason was simple.

He was the person who would later become the leader of the martial world, was he not?

That was why everyone did all they could to gather info of the heir.

The Black Moon Guild was a little slow in this regard.

They had jumped into the search after everyone did their research.

But the ones who found the heir first was the Black Moon Guild.

‘So it was you.....’

The first time Neng Ha Young found info of Cho Ryu Hyang, she was confused.

The information department of the Black Moon Guild could not fetch a large amount of information like the other powers.

They had far too few people to do that.

But they were good at digging in far to find specific information.

But even they took an extremely long time to find out anything

about Cho Ryu Hyang.

The boy was only eleven.

But it took the department an entire month to find any info on this boy.

Neng Ha Young was only able to realize why this was the case later on.

‘The heir.....’

It was truly an amazing position.

Especially in the martial world.

She could understand why it took so long to gather information on him.

And Neng Ha Young.

When she combined information on Cho Ryu Hyang and of the heir together, she found out something entirely new.

‘It hasn’t been a while since Cho Ryu Hyang became the heir.’

Just about five months.

It hasn't been long.

This meant that it would be easy to kill this child.

At least, this was the case for Neng Ha Young.

‘But.....’

She didn't feel like killing the boy.

In fact, she wanted him to live as long as he could.

That was what she wished.

‘We need the church to fend off the imperial palace.’

The church could not fall, especially now.

That was why the Black Moon Guild exited the Four Heavenly Powers.

To stop an even bigger enemy.....

Neng Ha Young looked down at the Sichuan Branch as she organized her future plans.



Chapter 115. Kang Sebin

There was a single man in the entire formation who was actually doing well compared to others.

Kang Sebin.

Kagaga-!

He looked at the copper giant quickly charging towards him, then spoke as he cut it down to pieces.

“How interesting.”

He had thought he experienced all sorts of strange things in this world, but that clearly didn't seem to be the case. There were still new things to experience. Kang Sebin shook off the dust of his sword and smiled faintly.

“Looks like everyone who was with me got dragged somewhere else, though.....”

The people of the Alliance who was with him beforehand.

Right now, every one of them had disappeared.

The only thing Kang Sebin knew at this moment was that whenever a red light flashed, the number of presences around him

decreased significantly.

Kang Sebin got rid of all the statues around him and looked around.

“It’s about time.....”

Soon after he said this,

A red light flashed in front of him.

A giant suction force came from this light, which threatened to pull Kang Sebin inside.

“I’m not usually the one to be forced inside anything, but.....”

Kang Sebin let out a laugh and stopped exerting force.

Right now, he didn’t have much of a choice.

Plus, he was pretty curious about what was inside.

Shhr-

When Kang Sebin stopped resisting, his body got pulled inside the light.

“It’s coming, get ready.”

A red light flashed, and the experts of the church readied themselves.

How many times had they repeated this operation?

Soon enough, the number of experts being pulled in began to dwindle, then they seemed to disappear altogether.

But around the time they began to think that no one was left in the formation, a red light flashed.

‘Probably just one or two people.’

Whilst everyone was thinking this,

They realized that the trap they had set beforehand was completely empty.

‘Hm?’

What’s this?

The experts all looked into the trap with a surprised face.

Their faces stiffened right after they saw what happened.

“Careful. This one’s strange.”

The traps had all been cut cleanly.

Tens of them, at that.

Such a thing hadn’t happened before.

The leaders of each platoon quickly turned to look for someone.

“What is it?”

Sunwu Cho Rin.

When the woman walked into the scene with a bloody whip, one of the platoon leaders opened her mouth.

“The traps are all broken.”

“Is that so?”

“It seems that someone unbelievably strong is waiting for you

inside.”

Sunwu Cho Rin stroked her chin.

According to the heir, there was supposed to be a pretty strong expert inside.

‘The problem is that I don’t actually know the expert’s true strength…….’

The stronger experts who came out of the red light so far were able to be taken care of by Sunwu Cho Rin and her subordinates.

But there were experts that not even peak experts like her could take.

‘If there’s a harmonious expert inside, things would get troublesome.’

Sunwu Cho Rin thought for a moment.

According to the Hidden Demon Corps, there was still three harmonious experts within the formation.

Perhaps now was the time to hand the things over to the heir?

But when she looked over to the heir, though, she could see him

looked carefully into the formation modifying several things.

It didn't look like she could bother him with anything anytime soon.

‘Should I just go for it?’

After thinking a bit, Sunwu Cho Rin nodded.

Even if a harmonious expert was inside, she wouldn't die easily.

Before she decided to make her move, however.

A red light spilled out of the formation.

“Eh?”

When the experts nearby made a surprised face,

Pshhh-!

A part of the formation got sliced off, and someone walked out of it.

A man was calmly walking with an excited expression.

‘Kang Sebin!’

A warning signal immediately went off in Sunwu Cho Rin’s head.

At the same time, she moved like lightning in order to stop Kang Sebin.

Her body was covered with blood.

Kang Sebin stopped when he saw her appear.

After looking at her from bottom to top, he sheathed his sword.

“I do not wish to fight a girl. Bring me your master.”

Sunwu Cho Rin’s eyes shook after hearing this.

It was a sign of her getting enraged.

“I see people like you from time to time.”

The type of people she hated the most.

When it came to strength, gender didn’t matter.

Talent and hard work did.



Sunwu Cho Rin bit her lips as she glared at Kang Sebin.

Unfortunately, the man was leagues ahead of her in terms of strength.

Perhaps she will get as strong as he is within a given amount of time.

But this was simply a conjecture and not reality.

Right now, the results of them fighting could be seen too clearly.

“I said I didn’t want to fight, not that I wasn’t willing to kill, girl. Don’t test me.”

Kang Sebin said this in a mocking tone.

The moment before Sunwu Cho Rin exploded in anger, someone stepped up behind her.

It was a boy wearing glasses.

Cho Ryu Hyang.

“Are you Kang Sebin?”

“And you must be the heir?”

“Indeed, I am.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

He looked at Kang Sebin for a moment, then opened his mouth.

“You’re quite lucky.”

“What?”

Cho Ryu Hyang fixed his glasses and opened his mouth with a cold face.

“You should be thankful that you’ll leave here today alive.”

“You must be crazy.”

Kang Sebin’s lips twitched.

This kid was mad.

At this moment, a bright red light appeared from Kang Sebin’s sword.

Bang-!

Cho Ryu Hyang stood unflinching, even after a red gang qi blasted past him.

A man had blocked the gang qi for him.

It was No Jin Nyung.

The usual playfulness was completely gone from his face.

He was looking at Kang Sebin with a maddened look.

“Who the hell do you think you are to try and touch him? Hm? You bastard, I’ll test the strength of your bones personally today.”

Craack-

When No Jin Nyung made a threatening face as he cracked his fingers like a backstreet thug, Kang Sebin made a surprised face.

Someone like this dumbass blocked his attack?

‘A harmonious expert?’

Kang Sebin’s cheeks began to tremble lightly.

Wasn’t this nice?

It was exceedingly rare to come across a harmonious expert.

Of course, this meant that the chance to have a fight with these people was low as well.

Plus, Kang Sebin was a man who thirsts for battle.

Meeting No Jin Nyung here was like finding an oasis in the middle of the desert.

“Come and get me, idiot.”

Kang Sebin straightened his posture and gripped his blade.

It looked like the man was about to charge in at any moment.

A black aura began to come out of No Jin Nyung at this time.

The aura seemed to pressure everything in its surroundings.

No Jin Nyung had taken his incomplete technique to its limits.

He let out a snort and walked forward.

Boom-!

“I’ll rip your spine right off.”

When No Jin Nyung punched after saying this, Kang Sebin smiled a toothy grin.

‘A chance.’

There was a woman hidden amongst all the experts of the church.

Due to her average face, she seemed a little hard to recognize out of the crowd.

The woman's name was 'Hwaryeong.'

She was an assassin planted by the Four Families.

She, who had managed to sneak in even under Sunwu Cho Rin, had but one goal.

'Cho Ryu Hyang.'

She was aiming for the heir's life.

Hwaryeong was very confused when she first got her mission.

The heir of the church... the future pope..... it was an extremely powerful position, but that wasn't important.

The person she needed to kill was a child.

Why couldn't the Four Families kill someone like that by themselves?

Well, after watching him for a bit, she could see that the boy was pretty talented.

‘But that’s it.’

Talented or not, the boy was still human.

A single stab should finish him off nicely.

‘Death is fair to everyone.’

Hwaryeong moved quietly to the heir.

This was the perfect chance.

Everyone’s attention was drawn to the current battle.

Hwaryeong looked around Cho Ryu Hyang quietly.

‘One, two..... three, four.....’

There were about twenty people stationed around Cho Ryu Hyang.

Mara’s Heavenly Wind Division.

The strongest troop within the church, who acted as the pope’s direct bodyguards.

They, too, were drawn to the fight in front, which made their guard at the back a little weak.

She could see them catching any debris that was about to fly into the heir.

Hwaryeong suppressed her smile.

‘I’m sorry, heir, but you’ll have to go with me.’

She was dead anyway, no matter what she did.

She was absolutely certain that she’d die before confirming her kill.

‘But it’s not that bad if it’s now, is it?’

Assassins like her were tools.

It would be pretty good to take herself out with someone as tremendous as the heir.

Hwaryeong comforted herself while saying this and moved.

She had found her chance.

‘Now!’

She could see Cho Ryu Hyang’s neck.

Once she took out a knife, however.

Cho Ryu Hyang turned to look at her.

He seemed exceedingly calm.

‘Eh?’

Something was weird.

She had never anticipated this happening.

At this moment, a warning went off in her brain.

And once the heir put something down on the floor, her vision went dark.

“Lord heir!”

Lim hak Gyum quickly emerged from the shadows to protect Cho Ryu Hyang.

He made a confused face when he saw what had happened.

Somebody who was approaching Cho Ryu Hyang had just disappeared.

“I’m fine.”

“.....Yes.”

When Lim Hak Gyum looked around a little longer and tried to leave, Cho Ryu Hyang opened his mouth.

“Not that way. I trapped her there.”

“Ah!”

It was a formation.

Lim Hak Gyum looked at the heir as if he was looking at a monster.

Even he felt threatened when he felt something come closer to him, he could not react on time.

Someone who learned assassination all her life had tried to kill the heir.

He reacted far too late to her movements.

But the heir seemed to anticipate all this before it even happened.

‘Just what is he.....’

It seemed that the heir had something other than just formations.

Just as Lim Hak Gyum was thinking this,

A red eye blinked once above Cho Ryu Hyang’s head, then disappeared.

Chapter 116. A Burning Flame

“Humans are very weak things.”

The creator of the Shura Environment.

The Heavenly Demon, Hong Sunwon, put a cigarette in his mouth and spoke loudly.

“The weakness of the human body? This is another matter altogether. Mentally, humans are very weak things.”

Cho Ryu Hyang listened quietly.

The usage of the Shura Environment was already in his head.

If he was right, this man would teach Cho Ryu Hyang something entirely new entirely.

“Gongson Chun Gi, was it?”

Hong Sunwon rubbed his chin as he smiled.

“He should know. After all, it’s something that you only get to see once you become that strong.”

A red eye appeared above Hong Sunwon’s head.

‘That is...’

He had seen it in the past.

It was the same thing that Gongson Chun Gi had used.

When Cho Ryu Hyang stared at the eye dumbly, Hong Sunwon opened his mouth.

“So you can see it. Did you want to know the true form of the Shura Environment? This is it.”

The superhuman area.

The ability to make an area around oneself completely his.

It was an ability to absorb all information of a surrounding completely into one’s head.

The ultimate form of using one’s senses.

“I don’t like to admit it, but the ability that Gongson Chun Gi uses is probably similar to this one. Since he’s quite talented as well, he probably figured this out on his own. But he’s way too crude in his ways. And since his ability has a bunch of random things mixed into it, it’s not pure either. That man is just disappointing in every way.”

The Heavenly Demon continuously insulted Gongson Chun Gi.

At the same time, the red eye above his head slowly descended downwards.

“The Shura Environment is powerful, but it is only completed once its user opens up the superhuman area. Once this is completed, the user becomes something akin to a god.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

There’s nothing scarier than someone being in total control of an area around oneself.

“Since your body is weak, you’d only be able to imitate it, but... there’s no going around it. You’ll have to get more and more experienced as time passes.”

What Cho Ryu Hyang learned from the Heavenly Demon would save his life in the near future.

Hwaryeong, the assassin.

Once she felt her vision go dark, she gave up on everything.

She realized that she had failed.

Her mission was compromised, and now that she was caught, she'd have to kill herself.

After all, it was entirely possible that she could be tortured for information.

‘That can’t happen.’

As she tried to bite down on the poison pill in her mouth,

She suddenly realized that her body could not move.

Not even a hair on her body could move.

She couldn’t even close her eyes.

All of the sudden, a white hand appeared amongst the darkness.

And for some reason, the white hand was the only thing she could see clearly.

The hand searched the area carefully, then grabbed onto her clothes.

She was dragged outside and was rendered immobile

immediately.

“You mustn’t kill her, young lord.”

“I know.”

Hwaryeong despaired after seeing the young boy in front of her.

Her target had neutralized her himself.

“We’ll interrogate her later.”

Cho Ryu Hyang left Hwaryeong to Lim Hak Gyum and stood back up.

Kang Sebin and No Jin Nyung.

The two’s fight was reaching a climax.

Kugagaga-!

The two closed in and immediately moved back out after each attack.



The two's speed were increasing as more time passed as well.

‘If I get pressured here, I die.’

Both of them were thinking the same thing.

Tukakaka-!

Cho Ryu Hyang watched the two fight, then turned back.

‘It's beginning.’

The formation was beginning to beat rhythmically.

The formation, which had been working slowly like a newborn baby, was suddenly picking up its pace.

The final form of the formation.

The form that was made only to kill.

‘Heaven-killing fire.’

As Cho Ryu Hyang thought of the word in his head,

The dark aura that came from No Jin Nyung’s body darkened further.

At the same time, black lightning bunched up in his fists.

‘This is it.’

Things were finally escalating.

Kang Sebin’s face turned serious as well.

Krr-

A red light spilled out of his sword and began to vibrate.

This would decide the result of the battle.

The moment a red gang qi appeared from Kang Sebin's sword, No Jin Nyung made his move.

He was moving straight forward.

Regardless of what the enemy was doing, No Jin Nyung was charging straight in. Cho Ryu Hyang knew this move well.

‘The Steps of The Heavenly Demon.’

Cho Ryu Hyang could immediately tell why No Jin Nyung's Heavenly Demon Technique was incomplete from the man's footwork.

Kang Sebin grinned as he looked at No Jin Nyung's aura and stabbed.

No Jin Nyung did not dodge.

Instead, he began to move even faster.

Kang Sebin's eyes narrowed.

Stab-

Kang Sebin's sword struck No Jin Nyung's hip.

It was undoubtedly a critical wound.

But No Jin Nyung didn't slow at all.

'This man...'

No Jin Nyung wasn't planning on dodging from the start.

Sacrifice the flesh and strike the bone.'

As Kang Sebin's eyes widened, No Jin Nyung's fist hit his stomach.

Baaang-!

A heavy impact sounded.

'Kuh!'

He couldn't even scream.

Kang Sebin's legs turned weak, and his vision shook.

Krrr-!

His spine made a horrifying noise as it bent forwards.

No Jin Nyung saw Kang Sebin fall powerlessly on the floor and grinned.

“I told you, didn’t I? That I’d pull off your damn spine. If you act like a coward in a fight like this, this is what happens.”

No Jin Nyung grinned once more and turned around.

Cho Ryu Hyang smiled when he saw No Jin Nyung’s face that practically asked for a praise.

“You did well.”

“Hehe, it was nothing.”

No Jin Nyung tapped Kang Sebin with the tip of his foot and smiled.

He was hurt, but the fact that he won made him happy.

When he raised his hand to finish the man, Cho Ryu Hyang stopped him.

“We’ll let this one live.”

“What?”

Why?

Cho Ryu Hyang opened his mouth.

“I need someone to spread a rumor.”

“Rumor?”

“Yes, a rumor.”

The moment Cho Ryu Hyang touched his glasses, the formation shook, and a giant crack spread on the floor.

Craack-!

“Hah?!”

When everyone stepped back in surprise, Cho Ryu Hyang calmly spoke.

“We need someone to spread the fear. We need someone powerful to spread that word.”

The formation began to burn with flames.

It wasn't hot, but the illusion of having the flame near made one feel hot.

“Get all the people of the Alliance here and wake them up. They need to see this as well.”

The church's experts moved quickly.

They moved the experts of the Alliance to a place where the formation could easily be seen and woke them up.

They watched the formation with a delirious mind.

There was only one thing in their heads.

Fear.

They could see the experts of the North Sea Ice Palace and the Nanman Beast Gate burn in the flames of hell.

Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes shone when he saw this.

There were those who were actually getting through the formation in this time.

‘Gu Hui... and Juk Hyul Myung?’

They were truly amazing people.

It was possible to go through the formation, now that all the complexity of it was disappeared.

But one needed immense power to do so.

Otherwise, one would just die a horrible death.

Cho Ryu Hyang walked slowly.

He had let go of those he was supposed to kill, but he was calm.

The place where he stopped was in front of the experts of the Alliance.

Cho Ryu Hyang took off his glasses.

“I am the heir of the Heavenly Demon Church, Cho Ryu Hyang.”

“.....”

He was a seemingly weak child.

A child who seemed extremely fragile was standing in front of tens of experts, but they could not even dare say anything.

After all, the boy was the disciple of the feared Gongson Chun Gi himself.

“I know you came here to do something unpleasant. Normally, you’d die for attempting something like this, but I’ll let you go only for today.”

“.....!”

“But I still need you to pay the price of your soul.”

Soul?

What did the boy mean?

Could a soul even be given a price?

Once everyone’s faces stiffened, Cho Ryu Hyang looked over them carefully.

“I will look forward to seeing how much your clan would be willing to pay for you.”

The voice that said this was quiet.

But the response this brought was great.

After all, this would tell each and every expert here how much their own families cared about them.

Once the experts realized this, they became enraged.

“Just kill me, you damn dog!”

When one of the experts said this, Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

“If that’s what you want, then sure. But you’ll have to pay the price for saying that.”

“Pay?”

Cho Ryu Hyang looked at the expert carefully.

His eyes were as cold as ice.

The expert trembled when he looked into those eyes.

“If you wish to die, I shall kill all of your comrades from your clan with you. Killing one or killing all would give us the same amount of disdain from the society anyway.”

“.....!”

The surroundings turned quiet.

The child in front of them was being completely honest.

“I only want one thing from you. Stay dead. Don’t do anything until your clans try to contact you. In fact, it might be better for you all to just act dead. After all, I’m doing my best not to kill you right now.”

It was a straightforward threat.

But no one could say anything in response.

The heir of the church.

The boy had the power to back his words.

And in this world, power was law.

Cho Ryu Hyang looked over at the flames and spoke quietly.

“This is only the start.”

He endured too much.

He refrained from killing, just because he didn't want to see blood.

But now, things have changed.

Chapter 117. A Purposeless Meeting

Now that I think of it, I seemed to have been enjoying that time back in the day.

Having thousands of people move under my command.

Having thousands of enemies move according to my will.

Walking along the fine lines of both as I adjusted the balance of power accordingly.

Because I was young and inexperienced at the time, I seemed to have regarded a battle where thousands were at stake as a sort of a ‘play’.

The time when I stopped regarding this as a ‘play’ was when Un Hui got injured.

Thanks to this, I came back to reality, and killed someone for the first time.

You might say that this was my very first murder.

– Neng Ha Young. Found in the letters of King Shura, Cho Ryu Hyang.

The Sichuan branch of the church.

In the gardens located here, a boy and a middle-aged man were sitting together comfortably.

The middle-aged man was leaning back on a tree as he looked amusedly at a boy, and the boy was looking at the man with a troubled expression.

It was Cho Ryu Hyang, and Gongson Chun Gi

The two didn't speak for a bit.

In the end, the one who opened his mouth first was Gongson Chun Gi.

“You made quite a scene, didn't you.”

“Somehow it all ended up that way.”

It really did end up that way.

There was no other way of putting it.

When Cho Ryu Hyang closed his mouth, Gongson Chun Gi asked a question.

“Did you learn anything?”

After thinking a bit, Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

“Yes. I learned much.”

When one needs to be cruel, he must be cruel.

Was there anything more important than that?

Gongson Chun Gi, after looking at Cho Ryu Hyang’s face, grinned.

“That’s good. You can leave the rest to me, now.”

Cho Ryu Hyang attempted to say something, stopped, and turned to his teacher.

He smiled, and spoke.

“You seem to be an amazing person.”

“Hm? How did you reach such an obvious conclusion?”

“You just keep saying all the words I needed to hear.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes, that is so.”

Gongson Chun Gi put his hand on his young disciple's head, and grinned.



“I too had to go through what you went through. After it all passes, it feels like nothing significant, but while it happens, it feels complicated and harsh. I know you well. And you're doing much, much better than I expected you to. So don't worry about what others think of you.”

“.....”

Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes trembled.

Despite looking a bit too relaxed at times, Gongson Chun Gi was an amazingly wise man.

This strangeness was only one of his many charms.

“You did well to leave your enemies alive. Keeping alive your enemies is harder than killing them, after all. You don't have to worry about what others say about you behind your back.”

Cho Ryu Hyang paused for a moment, and nodded.

The thing he had been worried about.

His teacher already knew what it was.

“I heard something like this had never happened before.”

Gongson Chun Gi stroked his chin, and nodded.

“Well, that is true. We never left our enemies alive. We killed both our allies and enemies.”

“.....How frightening.”

“Frightening... I suppose you can look at it that way.”

After thinking for a moment, Gongson Chun Gi slowly opened his mouth.

“We had to do this back in the day. Our enemies multiplied if we left them alive. Sometimes, we need to be cruel for the sake of survival.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

He, too, knew of the church’s history.

He could only bitterly smile.

‘The church is constantly surrounded by enemies.’

The church never held hands with anyone, and constantly fought all those who were different from them.

They needed to become strong in order to survive in such an environment, and had to become cruel as well.

After surviving for so long, the church had finally gained enough power.

And in this church, weaklings were not accepted.

They simply killed all those in their way.

Because of this, the event of Cho Ryu Hyang letting his enemies live sparked much controversy within the church.

After all, this was not what they did.

“No matter what anyone says, I’ll support you. I don’t like seeing death either.”

Cho Ryu Hyang scratched his head.

“That’s what I thought as well, but I didn’t think things would become so troublesome.”

“Tsk, so you’ve misunderstood. This wasn’t supposed to bring trouble in the first place.”

“What?”

So why was there a meeting about it right now?

Gongson Chun Gi smiled playfully.

“You’ve been doing so well that some old men got very annoyed.

This is something that they've started, so you don't need to worry about it. Just watch."

"....."

He couldn't understand.

And that emotion reflected directly into his face.

Gongson Chun Gi smiled, and kneeled down to Cho Ryu Hyang's eye level.

"And if you think about it, aren't all these people basically money? You've done something great. Being criticized for doing something good is kind of comical, but you'll see why this is happening soon enough. You get what I'm saying?"

"Yes."

When Cho Ryu Hyang nodded energetically, Gongson Chun Gi smiled yet again.

"Right. Plus, wasn't the reason why we came out to Sichuan to get money in the first place? We got a bunch from this battle. These old men are the strange ones here. The fact that they're doing strange things for their own greed annoys me quite a bit. But they're needed occasionally, so I'll let them off."

Gongson Chun Gi lightly tapped Cho Ryu Hyang's back and stood up.

"I prepared everything in advance, so don't worry about it."

".....Understood."

As Cho Ryu Hyang scratched his cheek, Gongson Chun Gi asked a question.

"So I heard you caught an assassin?"

"Yes."

"You want to know about the people who wants to kill you?"

Cho Ryu Hyang looked at Gongson Chun Gi silently.

What was that question supposed to mean?

Of course he'd want to know.

But there must be a reason why he's asking this question.

"The people who are trying to kill you are people who you will have to take care of. They're quite annoying at times, but you can't go without them."

Cho Ryu Hyang finally understood what Gongson Chun Gi was trying to do.

“You might not like it, but that’s what you have to do. So just ignore them. If you try to find out who they are, I won’t stop you.”

Cho Ryu Hyang thought.

At first, he was just curious.

He was curious about the ones who wanted to kill him.

But it was obvious, wasn’t it?

‘A member of the four families.’

The families known as the pillars of the church.

One of them had to have sent an assassin.

So if he wanted to find out who did it, he could easily do it.

He could torture, or resort to other methods.

He could think of many ways to do it, but in the end, he shook his

head.

“I won’t try to find out who they are.”

“Good. That’s what your enemies would want as well. They probably can’t even sleep right now.”

Gongson Chun Gi smiled, and rustled Cho Ryu Hyang’s hair.

“You’ll experience similar things in the future. Your position as an heir will challenge you greatly. If you respond to all your challenges emotionally, you will feel good, but you’ll end up worse than you were before.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

He could understand.

Plus, this was something that came from Gongson Chun Gi’s wealth of experience.

After taking all of that in, Cho Ryu Hyang looked at Gongson Chun Gi with amazement.

The more he knew of his teacher, the more amazing he seemed.

“Now then, let’s go meet the old men, shall we?”

“Right.”

The two walked into the meeting room inside the Sichuan branch.

Once Gongson Chun Gi entered the room, every one of the guardians in the room stood up and bowed.

They were showing him their respect.

To them, he was the greatest being under the heavens.

He was the pope.

Gongson Chun Gi scanned the guardians, and smiled.

“Thank you for coming all the way out here.”

“It’s nothing. Please, make use of us as much as you see fit.”

When Guardian Wu said this excitedly, Gongson Chun Gi smiled once again.

“Still energetic as ever, eh?”

“Doesn’t even get old.”

When Guardian Ju said this with a pointy lip, Guardian Wu glared at him.

As the two both glared at each other furiously,

Gongson Chun Gi sat down on his seat, and clapped his hands.

Clap-!

“Now now, we can get to all that later... let’s get talking about what we came here for in the first place. We’re all busy people, now.”

Everyone nodded.

Except one.

“I’m free, your holiness.”

Gongson Chun Gi couldn’t resist smiling.

“.....That’s nice. I can’t help but be jealous of you sometimes, Guardian Wu.”

Guardian Wu just stared at the pope confusedly.

Gongson Chun Gi moved Guardian Wu to the side, and called Cho Ryu Hyang over.

“As you may all know, this is my disciple. From now on, he’ll be with me during our meetings. You understand what this means, don’t you?”

“Of course we do.”

“You should’ve done so from the start.”

Sunwu Jo Duk and Jeon Bak both said this, which caused Gongson Chun Gi to put on a faint smile on his face.

“Right. No objections?”

All the guardians in the room nodded.

This meant quite a lot of things.

Cho Ryu Hyang, the heir, was now able to observe the inner workings of the church personally.

He could now use his power to its full potential.

“Good. Sit here.”

A seat right next to Gongson Chun Gi.

When Cho Ryu Hyang sat down, the pope opened his mouth.

“Now, let’s get on with the meeting. You all know why we’re here, yes?”

“Yes!”

“I originally called you here to punish the buddhist fools in mainland, but...”

Gongson Chun Gi looked at his disciple strangely for a second, and opened his mouth.

“The thing is, this kid here did his job a little too well. We need to see how we can clean up the mess.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded apologetically.

That’s right.

Cleanup.

That was exactly what it was.

After all, he did something that was never done before.

“You probably heard of it, too. The kid beat the enemy with no casualties whatsoever. Amazing, isn’t it? Anyone disagree?”

Everyone was staying quiet.

Then, suddenly, an old man in the center decided to open his mouth.

“We’re not denying his achievements. Certainly, he did an amazing thing. The problem lays in the fact that there are hostages.”

A seemingly quiet old man.

His hair had all been brushed backwards.

About half of the guardians nodded at his words.

Gongson Chun Gi, too, nodded.

“Haven’t heard a good point from you in a long time, Guardian Tian. Good job.”

“.....Thank you.”

Tian Zhongpae.

The guardian from the Tian family.

When the man nodded with a slight smile, Gongson Chun Gi took a look around.

“Yes, this is something that had never happened before. After all, the church always killed all its enemies.”

Everyone nodded.

New things always get compared to old things.

Because the guardians here were used to murder, they were foreign to the concept of mercy.

This didn't seem like something the church would do.

“Hostages take up a huge amount of food, they have injuries... you have to do a ton of things to maintain them. It's quite annoying.”

“.....”

About the time when Cho Ryu Hyang's face reddened from embarrassment, Gongson Chun Gi smiled.

“But here’s the thing that’s nice about this.”

“.....What would that be?”

When guardian Tian asked this seriously, Gongson Chun Gi whispered out his answer.

“This should be done by an expert, I think.”

Jeon Bak immediately stood up with an abacus.

This was his specialty.

Jeon Bak was the backup plan that Gongson Chun Gi had.

This meeting would eventually change the church slowly.

Chapter 118. The Price Of A Human

Was it possible to put a price on a human being?

While most people in the room were tilting their heads in curiosity, there were some who were nodding vigorously.

Merchants or assassins.

These were the people who often put prices on the lives of humans.

Out of all these people, there was one man who was more experienced than the rest.

Jeon Bak.

The man who was called the money-grubbing ghost in the church. He stood up, looked over the people in the room, and opened his mouth.

“All of those who have a problem with leaving the experts of the Alliance alive, raise your hands.”

“.....”

A few people in the room shifted uncomfortably.

Wasn't this too direct of a question?

Just how many people would be able to voice their opinions outright?

Did Jeon Bak even know where they were?

There was no way they'd let out their feelings in front of the Pope.

Just when everyone thought this,

Shf-

Someone dared to raise his hand.

Tian Zhongpae.

A member of the four families.

Those of the Tian clan had an unusually strong attachment to their bloodline.

The reason for doing so was simple: they produced the most amount of Popes in the history of the church.

“Rather than a problem, it’s more of a worry. Is it alright to put it this way?”

When Tian Zhongpae said this politely, Jeon Bak nodded.

“I suppose you can twist your thoughts that way, yes.”

“I am honestly a little worried? It has to be the same for the others. I am only this worried because the heir did something so massive.”

Jeon Bak heard all this, nodded, and opened his mouth.

“I get what you’re saying. But here’s the thing. Do you guys know how much your bodies are worth?”

“Just what are you...”

He was about to say ‘trying to say’ until he got cut off by Jeon Bak.

“I was asking if you all knew how much your bodies cost.”

Everyone made a peculiar face.

Did they know how much their bodies were worth?

What was the point of this question?

Around the point when everyone at the table made a similar expression, Jeon Bak opened his mouth again.

“I’ve been in charge of the church’s finances for a long time now. Most of my work often involved me putting a price tag on human beings.”

Put a price tag on humans?

When everyone made a dumb face out of surprise,

One of the old men in the corner grinned.

“Put a price tag on humans? Hah! You’ve been doing quite an interesting thing all your life, haven’t you? Then say, how much am I worth, Jeon Bak?”

The old man’s name was Jin Chun’ak.

When he, who controlled one of the ten battalions of the church, asked this question, Jeon Bak stopped all movements to take a look at the man.

Jin Chun’ak, seeing this, smirked.

“What? Is it a hard question? Do you need a lot of time?”

“.....”

Everyone in the room looked at Jeon Bak with a face filled with curiosity. Jeon Bak twitched one of his fingers lightly and pointed at Jin Chun’ak.

“Hundred twenty gold coins.”

“What?”

“Your body’s worth at least a hundred and twenty gold coins.”

Jin Chun’ak frowned.

Just one hundred twenty?

Was he worth that little?

It was a large sum of money, but this amount wasn’t enough to satisfy anyone.

After all, weren’t they the top brass of the church?

Everyone in the room made a conflicted face.

“...Are you for real?”

“Why would I lie in a place like this?”

“I mean, do you legitimately think I’m worth that little? Me, Jin Chun’ak, worth only a hundred and twenty gold coins?”

Jeon Bak nodded unhesitatingly.

To him, the emotion of the other party did not matter at all.

After all, he had calculated the amount correctly using the data he had collected.

“That’s right. A hundred and twenty.”

The moment Jin Chun’ak was about to go into a fit,

Someone put a hand on his shoulder.

It was Chun Zhongpae.

[Don’t get flustered. Did you forget who was in this room?]

Jin Chun’ak cooled down immediately.

The Pope was here.

Who would dare act out in front of a man like this?

“How fun.”

Gongson Chun Gi had an excited expression on his face.

He had allowed Jeon Bak to take charge of the meeting but seeing how the man was talking about something he had never expected, his interest had been aroused greatly.

“Guardian Jeon, just what makes you come up with a number like that?”

Jeon Bak bowed once towards Gongson Chun Gi before opening his mouth.



“It’s all just simple algebra in the end, but if I were to dig deeper... I’ve always thought that you could put a price on humans, and I’ve put countless hours into researching the matter as well.”

“Interesting thought. Go on.”

“For the case of Guardian Jin Chun’ak, I’ve come up with that number based on his age, ability, and capabilities.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes. In order to come up with this result, it is a given that one would have to do a significant amount of background research on a

person. Since I possess information of all the guardians here, it is easy for me to come up with a number quickly. The more information I have, the more accurate I would be.”

“So according to your data, Jin Chun’ak is worth a hundred twenty?”

“Yes. After all, age does play a big part in all this.”

“Hehe, how interesting. Quite easy to understand, too. Makes a lot of sense as well.”

Gongson Chun Gi smiled at Jin Chun’ak, who was currently trying his utmost to calm himself.

“Don’t get so mad. Just think of this as one of those fortunes you can get from the streets.”

“Kuh...”

Jin Chun’ak couldn’t do anything other than calm himself.

After all, the Pope had spoken.

But it was impossible to hide his reddened face.

Cho Ryu Hyang, who had been observing the meeting room

carefully, touched his glasses as he thought to himself.

‘It’s plausible.’

Cho Ryu Hyang, too, had understood what Jeon Bak had said.

After hearing it, he nodded.

‘He took data from a certain group and analyzed it.’

In the modern day, this was known as ‘analytics’. However, during the time, such a term did not exist.

Because of this, even though Cho Ryu Hyang understood what Jeon Bak was speaking of, he could not exactly pinpoint what it was.

He could only be amazed by the things that mathematics could achieve.

‘Setting a standard by finding an average between countless information.....’

After that, one would use that standard to judge people.

“In any case, using all the things that I have done in the past, I can say this one thing.”

Jeon Bak began fiddling with his abacus again as he opened his mouth.

“We can earn three million gold coins using the people we have captured?”

“T-three million?”

Expressions of surprise floated up on everyone in the room.

Three million gold was much, much more than the amount a relatively large clan could make in a year.

Jeon Bak disregarded all of them as he continued to talk.

“This is the least amount of cash we can get from them, by the way.”

“.....!”

Everyone’s faces turned into that of absolute shock.

This was hard to believe.

At this time, the Pope nodded lightly at Jeon Bak.

Gongson Chun Gi already knew of what Jeon Bak was about to say.

“Personally, I would like to just bow down to the heir for what he had done, but... if you feel that killing them is the right thing to do, I shall comply.”

Jeon Bak calculated something some more and opened his mouth.

“But if we kill our hostages now, we’d be suffering a net loss of ten thousand gold coins.”

“.....”

Everyone’s faces stiffened.

They didn’t have much of a choice, did they?

When the guardians’ faces turned grim, Gongson Chun Gi stepped forward.

Clap-

After clapping his hands loudly, Gongson Chun Gi opened his mouth.

“Right, let’s just look at the results here.”

Just look at the results?

Things would be extremely simple, then.

The people of the martial world were already praising Cho Ryu Hyang and also referred to him by the name, Transcendent Evil Prince (超魔公子).

Cho Ryu Hyang, without his knowledge, had become quite famous already.

Adding to this, he not only suffered minimal losses on his side but also captured a huge number of hostages.

He created a way for the church to receive a huge sum of cash.

“He beat the enemy under ridiculous terms. That alone is something commendable. This isn’t something you should be criticizing. You should be praising him instead.”

“.....”

Everyone nodded.

In the first place, what they had complained about was

something very insignificant.

The boy had done something unprecedented.

That was the only reason they used to start this meeting.

‘We did lack reason, that is true.’

Tian Zhongpae smiled bitterly.

In reality, this meeting was held only because of the four families.

They were worried about Cho Ryu Hyang taking too much power for himself.

Gongson Chun Gi knew of this but decided to let it go for now.

After all, these people were those who Cho Ryu Hyang had to take under his wing.

“It’s usually the case that when you decide to complain about something bad within someone’s good achievements, you will never stop. Let’s all take this event as an exception. Any complaints, Guardian Tian?”

“...None, your holiness.”

“You, Guardian Jin?”

“Of course I don’t, your holiness.”

The other guardians couldn’t dare to say something.

Plus, this matter wasn’t even supposed to get any complaints from anyone.

The heir’s achievement was just that big.

It would only become strange if the meeting was dragged out longer than this.

“Thank you for your opinions. We’ll adjourn the meeting here. Go rest, now.”

“Understood.”

Everyone bowed towards Gongson Chun Gi and exited the room.

Now, only Sunwu Jo Duk, Jeon Bak, Wu Gyu Ho, and Ju Sang San were left.

Gongson Chun Gi looked over these people and smirked.

“Looks like the other side was quite anxious.”

“Looks like it. To think they’d hold a meeting over something so trivial... how troublesome.”

When Ju Sang San said this, Wu Gyu Ho chipped in with his own complaints.

“Why do you leave these people be, your holiness? Can’t we just sweep them away? Now should be a good chance to flush out the bad parts of the church.”

Wu Gyu Ho seemed ready to fight at any moment.

Gongson Chun Gi looked at him with a smile.

“Don’t be so angry. Fighting would be a bad move right now.”

Wu Gyu Ho twitched when he realized that Cho Ryu Hyang was staring at him, then opened his mouth apologetically.

“Please don’t look at all of us like those who were in the meeting. There aren’t many in the church who are willing to be that dirty.”

Cho Ryu Hyang smiled.

He, too, could differentiate between friend and foe in this

meeting.

‘There were a few that I couldn’t judge, though.’

Those people shouldn’t be quite relevant, however.

In this aspect, his teacher was an amazing man.

The fact that he had someone who was willing to be angry and worried for him was enough to make him respect Gongson Chun Gi as a teacher.

“In any case, you all did well in staying quiet. These are the people who still work with us, after all. We just need to persuade them a bit in the future.”

“Even so.....”

“Silence!”

Wu Gyu Ho immediately scrunched up his large physique when Gongson Chun Gi looked at him threateningly.

Gongson Chun Gi looked at the man’s polite(?) posture and opened his mouth.

“Don’t try to butt in into this any further than this. Let the child

handle it. The other side shouldn't try to make a move after this point unless they're complete idiots. After all, they expended quite a bit of energy in trying to pull this off."

Gongson Chun Gi turned around to look at Cho Ryu Hyang.

"How was your first meeting?"

Cho Ryu Hyang touched his glasses for a bit, then put down his hands and spoke.

"I've seen some good things. As I thought, this place is just as chaotic as the outside world. It was fun."

Gongson Chun Gi grinned.

"Correct. This place isn't that different from the outside. It's good that you saw through this. It's nice that you had fun."

"Where else would you get the chance to sit peacefully with your killers?"

Gongson Chun Gi nodded.

"You'll have to keep doing that for quite a while from now on."

The man was right.

Like Gongson Chun Gi said, Cho Ryu Hyang had to work with his killers quite a bit in the future.

Chapter 119. A Violent Change

“A message came from the Heavenly Demon Church.”

In the headquarters of countless clans in the Sichuan area,

The heads of each clan had a dark expression draped over their faces.

‘Oh dear, this feels almost like a funeral.’

The Beggar’s Sect.

Wi Gul Gae, the leader of the Sichuan branch of the Beggar’s Sect, clicked his tongue.

Of course, no one in Sichuan had actually expected the church to win.

‘Were we too greedy?’

Greed was always the problem.

At first, the goal was to drive out the church, but...

Somehow it all turned into an all-out confrontation.

The process of it was so natural that they had prepared completely for the second alliance-demon war without even realizing it.

And the end of this second war was a complete loss.

‘Where did it all go wrong?’

He couldn’t come to a conclusion, no matter how much he thought.

Wi Gul Gae thought a little more and then shook his head.

What was important right now was fixing all this mess.

Finding the initial problem could come later.

“To be honest, we were pretty much robbed of all we had, but it’s not like we lost all hope.”

“Sigh... [Amitabha](#).”

(Remember that Amitabha is part of a Buddhist mantra and not a specific person)

Wi Gul Gae looked around the meeting room and spoke.

“Those of you who are willing to pay for the hostages, raise your

hand.”

The head of the Emei sect wrinkled her forehead and sighed.

Everyone in the room here was feeling the same emotions as her.

‘In the end, everyone will pay.’

This was what Wi Gul Gae thought, and everyone thought the same as him.

After all, it was impossible for these clans to just leave their people to die. That would hurt their reputation too much.

Plus, they had put in far too many people in this battle.

If they refuse the church’s offer, the clans would all have to disband.

And the money the church wanted for the hostages was a fair price as well.

‘A sweet offer.’

It was almost like the heavens sending down a rope to help them.

The representative of the Emei sect, after thinking for quite a

while, opened her mouth.

“We will... pay.”

Wi Gul Gae nodded.

It was an obvious move.

The temporary head of the Qingsheng clan, Taehu, was nodding as well.

“Same for us.”

Wi Gul Gae confirmed everyone else’s decision and opened his mouth.

“I shall deliver our decision to the Heavenly Demon Church, then.”

Wi Gul Gae stood up.

Right then, someone whispered to himself quietly.

“...Would those folk at the Demon Church return our people whole, though?”

Wi Gul Gae paused for a bit after hearing the words of the

temporary head of the Qingsheng clan.

It wasn't like he hadn't thought of this, but it was precisely because it was the church he trusted this.

“They'd have killed the hostages already if they were planning on doing that. After all, doing something like that is their tradition.”

Right.

That would be more like the church.

So why was the church offering to let the hostages live?

Wi Gul Gae answered this question for everyone.

“Are you all curious? Well, it's simple, really.”

Wi Gul Gae formed a circle with his thumb and forefinger and grinned.

“It's for money, of course. They just happened to find a better way to make it.”

“.....”

“That's why you don't have to trust them. Just trust the money.

I'm certain that the hostages are safe. In fact, they'll probably come back healthier than ever."

"....."

Everyone lost their ability to speak after hearing this.

"Money is very good. Makes someone like me go absolutely mad for it. Those guys have been ignoring how to make money because of their pride... till now."

"So they turned realistic..."

When Tang Munhyup, the leader of the Sichuan Tang clan, said this, Wi Gul Gae nodded.

"They've just made use of the most effective way to make money that they had."

Taehu gulped.

Wi Gul Gae thought for a second, then opened his mouth.

"This made me see the church in a very different light."

"Different light?"

When Tand Munhyup made a curious face, Wi Gul Gae nodded.

“The ones who used to kill our people to no end are now asking for money. This is a great change.”

How was this great?

Wi Gul Gae looked over the group in front of him and grinned.

“It means we can save those we couldn’t save before with money.”

That was true.

Even Taehu had to agree to that.

Wi Gul Gae decided to leave after saying one more thing.

“In any case, they’ve changed. This is good, but also something to be feared.”

He didn’t say why it was scary.

Wi Gul Gae left the building and looked up at the sky.

He spat on the ground and complained to himself.

“Too damn clear today.”

The church had changed.

This came strongly to Wi Gul Gae.

Bang bang bang-!

“Senior brother, please open the door.”

“.....Just leave me be.”

“Don’t be like that. You need to eat.”

“Don’t wanna.”

“You haven’t eaten since yesterday. Just eat already.”

“.....”

Silence.

Ju Da Hye twitched her cheeks a few times, then took a deep

breath.

She looked at the door in front of her and shouted.

“Haah~!”

Baang-!

The door smashed to bits after facing a single punch from her.

A dark room was revealed, and inside was a young man who was staring into the mirror with a depressed expression.

Juk Hyul Myung.



He looked at Ju Da Hye with a shocked face for a moment.

Then, he turned his face.

“Don’t look at me.”

“Hmm, why?”

“Get out, I’m tired.”

“Stop acting.”

Ju Da Hye twitched a few times as she watched Juk Hyul Myung

try to avoid her.

“Get out and eat already. Food’s getting cold.”

“I’m tired? Are you deaf?”

Ju Da Hye made an astonished face and put her hand on Juk Hyul Myung’s shoulder.

“Are you... trying to make a joke?”

“I’m not in the mood.”

Ju Da Hye ended up exploding.

“Dear god, why in the world are you like this over some hair? Are you a girl?”

“Some hair...?”

Juk Hyul Myung’s eyes began to burn with rage.

“SOME HAIR?! My precious hair that I grew and took care of for so long?!”

“Of course! You should consider yourself lucky to be alive, and you’re sitting here going like this because you burned some hair!”

“You’re speaking a little too rudely, junior sister?”

“God damn it! Anyone else would think your parents died or something!”

Juk Hyul Myung formed a fist and began to tremble.

“You... I’ve treated you too well recently...”

“Hmph! How funny. Well? You always teased me.”

Ju Da Hye was asking to be hit.

She glared defiantly at Juk Hyul Myung.

Juk Hyul Myung returned a similar glare at her.

But soon enough, Juk Hyul Myung lost all his power and slid down onto the chair behind him.

“I’m finished, junior sister.”

“Finished?”

“I don’t feel moved when I look at myself in the mirror

anymore.”

“...You actually felt moved by that?”

Juk Hyul Myung’s eyes as he nodded became darker.

Ju Da Hye looked at this with surprise, then immediately realized how much Juk Hyul Myung cared for his looks. She sighed and opened her mouth.

“You still look good, senior brother.”

“True, true. But my perfect looks are now flawed.”

When they escaped the last trap from the Heavenly Demon Church, Juk Hyul Myung was forced to sacrifice a bit of his hair to save Ju Da Hye.

Ju Da Hye, upon thinking of this, reddened a bit and shook her head. She opened her mouth.

“...By the way, wouldn’t a normal heir of the North Sea Ice Palace mourn the deaths of his subordinates from battle?”

Juk Hyul Myung looked at Ju Da Hye confusedly.

“Mn? Why should I mourn them for being weak?”

“Well, that’s normally what happens.”

“Hoho, there’s nothing to be said if you died because of your weakness. At least, that’s what my teacher taught me.”

“Yes, yes, of course.”

“I haven’t really been liking your tone for a while now, junior sister?”

“I’ve been really polite, though?”

When Juk Hyul Myung glared at Ju Da Hye like a snake,

Growl-

His stomach rumbled, signaling his hunger for food.

Ju Da Hye grinned.

“Hungry, huh? Let’s go down and eat. We have meat.”

“I..I said I’m not hungry!”

“Your body doesn’t think so, though? Just come here.”

Juk Hyul Myung resisted a bit, then pretended to give in as he stood up from his seat and followed.

Juk Hyul Myung's neck and arms were covered in bandages.

He had suffered from minor wounds as he escaped that hell hole.

‘At least I protected my face.’

Juk Hyul Myung bitterly smiled as he looked into the mirror before leaving the door.

He was bitter for having to cut his hair short.

*

“You’ve disappointed me very much.”

“.....”

Gu Hui was laying in his bed with a light burn on his body.

His surface wounds weren’t much.

Internal wounds, however, were a different story.

He used too much internal energy even when he had run out of it, which injured his muscles in the process. His dantian, too, was extremely damaged.

But the gaze of the man in front of Gu Hui hurt more than anything.

Gu Ma Byuk.

The leader of the Nanman Beast Gate.

He looked at his son disappointedly, then left.

Before leaving, he said one thing.

“Head back to Nanman when you’ve healed and rest there.”

“.....”

Gu Hui couldn’t say anything.

He had never thought of failure before.

He only had confidence that he was perfect.

‘How disappointing.’

This was all his fault.

If he had been calmer when he met the heir of the church, this wouldn’t have happened.

Grit-

‘Cho Ryu Hyang...’

Gu Hui grit his teeth.

He would never forget the boy’s name.

Gu Hui closed his eyes and slowly drifted to sleep.

Right now, recovery was his top priority.

Revenge would come after.

He had no intention of going back to Nanman.

Chapter 120. Monster And Monster

‘What the hell is that inhuman thing?’

Maksu.

Right now, he was keeping his breath as low as possible.

At first, he thought he was mistaken.

But he wasn’t.

‘Gongson Chun Gi, was it?’

From the information he had gathered from the humans, the man seemed to be the father of the yellow-haired girl that treated him like a pet.

That much wasn’t a problem.

The real problem stemmed from the fact that the man carried inhuman amounts of energy with the shell of a human.

Hadn’t he passed the limits of the human body a long time ago?

‘Is he a god in disguise?’

That wasn't the case.

Unbelievably enough, the man was actually human.

Maksu suppressed his energy as much as he could and began moving.

He honestly did not want to come in contact with this, Gongson Chun Gi, fellow.

He didn't want to admit it, but that man was able to see through Maksu in an instant at this point in time.

'I should be careful.'

It would be better for him to stay away from the yellow-haired girl for a while.

After thinking this much, Maksu prepared himself to leave the garden.

At that point, however, he felt someone approach him and turned around. When he did so, his already white face became even paler.

'Why is that bitch here?'

That girl who loved to use a whip was coming his way.

He froze, almost like a deer in the face of a tiger.

He was hoping that the girl would just ignore him.

But.....

“Found you, damn rat.”

It seemed that Sunwu Cho Rin’s intent in coming here was to find Maksu in the first place.

Sunwu Cho Rin glared at Maksu for a good second, then opened her mouth.

“So you ran away again? I thought I clearly told you that I’d educate you if you did something like this again?”

[.....]

Maksu looked at Sunwu Cho Rin with the most pathetic eyes he could muster.

It was embarrassing, but this was the only way for him to escape for now.

But it was useless.

“Corporal punishment is fitting for animals like you.”

Sunwu Cho Rin grinned evilly, and began to spin Maksu around by his leg.

Then, at some point, she threw him far up into the air.

Shuu-!

As he flew in the air, Maksu began to consider something seriously for a second.

He thought of just giving up on the dragon's pearl and just screw with the promise he made.

But a promise was a promise.

His anger was almost painful enough to get his intestines twist, but he had to endure.

Maksu, after spinning through the air and falling on the ground, widened his eyes in surprise.

What he had feared would happen the most had just happened.

“Hoh? What’s this?”

The being who tamed the crazy cat known as Sunwu Cho Rin was in front of Maksu.

Gongson Chun Gi.

He had been returning to his home after meeting Cho Ryu Hyang.

The Pope meeting Maksu right now was a complete ‘coincidence’.

But thanks to this coincidence, Gongson Chun Gi was able to meet Maksu. Well, of course, he didn’t really think much of this at first.

But, as more time passed, a feeling of surprise began to take over Gongson Chun Gi.

When he used his godly eye, he could only see the space Maksu was in, and not Maksu himself.

‘Interest’ began to creep up Gongson Chun Gi’s face.

At the same time, a giant red eye that people normally couldn’t see rose above his head.

Sunwu Cho Rin felt the area become colder for some reason. After thinking about it for a second, she opened her mouth.

“It’s a pet the miss has brought in.”

“.....That’s a pet?”

A strange face.

Sunwu Cho Rin saw this look on Gongson Chun Gi’s face and opened her mouth yet again.

“Yes. It’s been misbehaving lately, so I have been educating it. Is there a problem?”

Sunwu Cho Rin made a confused face as she grabbed onto Maksu’s leg.

Gongson Chun Gi stared silently at the upside-down Maksu for quite a bit.

Maksu could only sweat nervously from this.

‘Damn it! Damn it! He found out.’

That third eye of his.

In front of something like that, not even Maksu could hide.

‘This is why I tried to avoid him...’

All sorts of curse words popped up in his head.

The reason why Gongson Chun Gi couldn’t find him until now was because he was hiding his power.

But at this distance, hiding his power didn’t matter.

Gongson Chun Gi slowly began to grin.

He almost resembled an evil child who had just found a toy.

A chill ran through Maksu’s body.

“Would you mind if I gave that to my daughter?”

“This... thing?”

“Yes. That. The pet.”

When Gongson Chun Gi pointed at the rabbit with an evil face, Sunwu Cho Rin didn’t hesitate in handing over the rabbit.

Gongson Chun Gi carefully received the rabbit and smiled.

“Thank you, you may leave now.”

Sunwu Cho Rin didn't understand why Gongson Chun Gi seemed so happy but decided to leave anyway.

Once Sunwu Cho Rin left, Gongson Chun Gi looked down at Maksu and grinned.

“Pretty good, aren't you? Didn't think that someone like you would be hiding from me so well... I've experienced something new.”

[.....]

Maksu couldn't move.

He had no idea what to do from this point.

Gongson Chun Gi continued to whisper into Maksu's ear.

“I almost didn't recognize something like you. To think that someone was doing something like this in my 'area'... I thought my area was complete, but I guess I'm still pretty weak at some parts.”

[.....]

“Moon rabbit, do you actually imagine that I haven’t seen through your disguise?”

Craack-

[.....!]

Maksu grit his teeth at the sudden pressure that was exerted onto his body.

‘Damn it.....’

This human was very sly.

He was carefully applying more and more force, just enough for Maksu to not die.

In the end, Maksu had to release his strength.

Bang-!

Gongson Chun Gi smiled after seeing this.

“Should’ve come out like this from the start.”

It was exciting.

How did a monster like this appear without him even recognizing it?

And why was it near his daughter?

Did Cho Ryu Hyang not realize this for what it was either?

‘No, that child should’ve realized it from the start.’

Crack-

Gongson Chun Gi shook his head as he cracked his fingers.

His disciple’s eyes were special.

It seemed to be similar to the eyes that Gongson Chun Gi had, but they were slightly different.

In any case, Gongson Chun Gi pushed away from the questions in his head and walked forward.

Maksu walked back with a frown when he saw this.

Even now, he didn’t know what to do.

‘Damn it.’

But as soon as his eyes met with those of Gongson Chun Gi’s, he grits his teeth.

The other side had no intention of peacefully resolving this.

[Damn it! Are you even human?! Speak truthfully!]

Gongson Chun Gi responded with enthusiasm.

“Kuhehe, a talking rabbit, eh? You’d sell for quite a bit in the market, I reckon.”

[Crazy bastard.]

Maksu dug his feet into the ground and glared at Gongson Chun Gi.

Come to think of it, it didn’t seem like a being like this was included in the promise he made with the glasses kid.

[Other ‘people’ just couldn’t see my power, right?]

Maksu looked around a bit to check if anyone else was around.

There wasn't.

And since the person in front of him wasn't even human at this point anyway, he wasn't breaking his promise.

At least, that was the case to Maksu.

'It would be a cheat if the boy tried to argue that the thing in front of me was human.'

After reaching this conclusion, Maksu released his power completely.

Kugugu-!

There was enough energy to make the air itself tremble.

Visible shock appeared in the eyes of Gongson Chun Gi.

He observed Maksu for a few seconds like a piece of art. His mouth opened by itself subconsciously.

".....Amazing."

How long had it been since the last time he felt this much excitement?

He never felt this excited even when he met Baek Mu Ryang or Neng Mu Gi.

But a moment later, he realized that instead of excitement, he was feeling a threat to his life. His eyes narrowed.

It has been a while, indeed.

“The place is a little too small for the both of us..... would you like to move to somewhere bigger?”

Maksu couldn't refuse this offer.

[What a good idea, you son of a bitch.]

“Oh my, what potty mouth you have.”

[.....Kehehe, I'll see how long you can stay that arrogant in front of me.]

Gongson Chun Gi grinned.

“You'd have to look at me for quite a while for that?”

[.....I'll make you crawl like a worm.]

“Puhehe, try it, why don't you?”

Maksu was intent on completely subduing Gongson Chun Gi.

Staying silent for a long time had made quite a lot of trash look down on him.

Gongson Chun Gi felt intense heat spread across his body and smiled.

His body had been feeling a little heavy for quite a bit.

It was something completely different from fat or age.

It almost felt like his physical body itself was becoming heavier on its own.

That wasn't all.

Nowadays, it felt like he wasn't even alive anymore.

‘Just what is this feeling, I wonder?’

He had reached the peak of his power.

He had found a disciple he was satisfied with.

There was nothing he should've been dissatisfied about.

But for some reason, time seemed to flow extremely slowly.

Almost like... there was no fun in living anymore?

And at a time like this, the rabbit appeared... To Gongson Chun Gi, the rabbit was almost like a blessing.

He had needed something like this.

Gongson Chun Gi lifted his body in the air and opened his mouth.

“Be sure to follow me well, monster.”

[To think I'd be called a monster by a monster... what a day.]

Maksu followed Gongson Chun Gi well, even as he complained to himself.

Kuaa-

Gongson Chun Gi 'flew' across the sky at an inhuman speed.

As Maksu had thought, this man was not even human at this point.

After landing on a nameless mountain somewhere, Gongson Chun Gi opened his mouth.

“By the way, just what were you doing back there? What was your plan?”

[You think I’d tell you?]

Gongson Chun Gi smiled.

This was what he had wanted. After all, it wouldn’t be fun if the rabbit had told him from the start.

“Well, I suppose I’ll be beating you up until the answer comes right out your mouth.”

Crack-

After loosening the joints in his body, Gongson Chun Gi took off the bracelets in his arms.

He was planning on going all out from the start.

Maksu looked at this from afar and laughed at Gongson Chun Gi.

[Do you even know who you’re acting like this too?]

“Nope, not interested. I’m just happy that you’re here right now.”

Right.

He was happy.

He finally met someone he could go all out on.

When was the last time this was the case?

Probably decades ago, when he was still weaker than his teacher.

But it had truly been a while since he met a match he couldn’t predict the outcome of the battle from.

Kuuuuooooo-!

A dangerous aura bloomed out of Gongson Chun Gi.

His body expanded and his aura became denser than ever before.

The smile on Maksu slowly disappeared.

[.....Damn it! Damn it! No matter how I look at it, this is

seriously a cheat.]

Maksu mustered all the power he had in his body.

In his current state, he really had to do his best.

Gongson Chun Gi was much, much stronger than he thought.



Chapter 121. Demon Eyes

Gongson Chun Gi had secretly visited Cho Ryu Hyang just before he met Maksu.

He had been thinking about something.

After sitting with Cho Ryu Hyang for a few minutes, Gongson Chun Gi grinned and opened his mouth.

“You’ve managed to make a pretty shabby Demon Eye, huh. You managed to copy me quite well.”

Cho Ryu Hyang scratched his cheeks and opened his mouth.

“You saw?”

“Of course. I was thinking of not saying anything about it, but I really couldn’t. After all, it’d be better for you if I just taught you how to create the real thing.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

He had only managed to barely imitate the Demon Eye that his teacher had used.

Gongson Chun Gi hadn’t taught him how to use it, and the man himself didn’t seem like he wanted to teach it.

“The Demon Eye would simply act as your third eye if you used it like you did before, but once you get better at it, you can do much more with it. That was why I really didn’t want to teach you about how to use it.”

Other uses?

When Cho Ryu Hyang made a curious face, Gongson Chun Gi opened his mouth.

“Curious?”

“Yes.”

“Because you used your Demon Eye in such a shabby way, you’ve attracted all sorts of weird stuff around yourself. The problem is, you don’t have any ability to even see those things around you.”

“What are those things?”

Gongson Chun Gi grinned creepily.

“I’m getting a little off topic, but I think I can see why my master said talented students are always a pain to deal with.”

“.....”

“I didn’t really want to teach you about this, but since you opened this door yourself, not teaching you would just end up becoming a poison. Those things are more tenacious than one might expect.”

Gongson Chun Gi rubbed Cho Ryu Hyang’s hair.

“Disciple.”

“Yes, master.”

“I was hoping that you wouldn’t have had to learn this.”

“.....May I ask you why?”

Gongson Chun Gi smiled faintly.

“You’ll see soon enough. Are you ready?”

Cho Ryu Hyang let out a small laugh.

That laugh resembled Gongson Chun Gi’s very much, for some reason.

“Was there ever a moment I had the chance to be ready for something? I’ll just take it as it comes.”

Gongson Chun Gi let out a uproarious laughter.

“Kuhahah! Very good. I was worried for nothing.”

Shf-

Cho Ryu Hyang could feel Gongson Chun Gi's hand on his head cool rapidly.

He was beginning to feel quite wary at this point.

But Cho Ryu Hyang decided to wait and see.

His teacher wasn't one to harm him.

Gongson Chun Gi saw this and grinned.

“This will... hurt a bit.”

When Cho Ryu Hyang scrunched up his eyebrows.

Crack-

His vision turned white.

‘Kuh!’

It almost felt like an icicle had pierced his head.

At the same time, his eyes felt like they were going to pop off.

Cho Ryu Hyang was unable to do anything but to tremble in pain.

Gongson Chun Gi returned to his seat and put a cigarette in his mouth.

“Watch. It isn’t something that I really wanted to show you, but... you should have some fun experiencing it for the first time.”

Cho Ryu Hyang endured the pain in his eyes and turned slowly.

His eyes widened instantly.

“Ah...”

The sight he saw was almost enough to make him forget about his pain.

There were numerous ‘stains’ surrounding him.

‘What’s this?’

It almost felt like he saw something he shouldn't have seen.

At the same time, curiosity bubbled up inside him.

The stains resembled humans.

When he observed them even more, his eyes met with one of the stains.

He could feel them watching him.

When he felt this, Cho Ryu Hyang felt a chill run down his spine.

He stepped backward in fear and stuttered.

“A-aren't these... ghosts?”

Gongson Chun Gi smiled.

“Correct. Welcome to the swamp of darkness, disciple.”

This was the moment Cho Ryu Hyang got connected with the world of the dead.



Cho Ryu Hyang lay down on his bed with his eyes closed.

But it was useless.

Despite having his eyes closed, he could still feel the ghosts watching him.

And the ghosts were even whispering amongst themselves.

‘So this is why master didn’t want to teach me about this.’

Hearing the voices of dead people was something truly horrifying.

It was almost like torture for martial artists.

Having your victims appear in front of you was really different than from simply seeing a ghost.

“Am I supposed to get used to this sooner or later? Something like this?”

Cho Ryu Hyang frowned after pondering a bit on his master's words.

It didn't feel like he'd get used to this at all.

Cho Ryu Hyang, after rolling on the bed for quite some time, almost bounced into a standing position.

Kii-!

A giant amount of energy passed through his body.

Cho Ryu Hyang ran to the door immediately.

He frowned and muttered to himself.

“This is...”

He had felt this kind of power before.

“Maksu?”

The power of that arrogant rabbit.

This made him nervous.

Did that rabbit had the gall to break the promise with him?

When Cho Ryu Hyang ran out the door, No Jin Nyung followed.

He, too, had felt the immense wave of power that just passed.

“Allow me to carry you, my lord.”

No Jin Nyung kneeled down to Cho Ryu Hyang.

But Cho Ryu Hyang shook his head.

He had a better idea.

An idea he just didn't make use of much.

“I'll be seeing you there.”

Shhhh-!

Cho Ryu Hyang's body began to fade and shot forward.

He was walking forward at an unbelievable speed.

No Jin Nyung widened his eyes.

“Heavenly Demon Steps?”

Was that not similar to the Heavenly Demon Steps that he was practicing?

Something was off about it, though.

Cho Ryu Hyang's version seemed a lot more stable.

After looking dumbly for a moment, No Jin Nyung came to his senses and began to chase after Cho Ryu Hyang.

He needed to ask what had happened.

*

‘I was one step late.’

Cho Ryu Hyang frowned after reaching the place where Maksu had released his energy.

He couldn't find the rabbit.

Instead, he found someone completely unexpected.

Sunwu Cho Rin.

“What happened?”

Sunwu Cho Rin looked at Cho Ryu Hyang strangely.

She had recognized it as well.

Cho Ryu Hyang was using the Heavenly Demon Steps.

‘This kid learned the Heavenly Demon Technique?’

The Heavenly Demon Technique was an incomplete martial art.

The art was famous for having numerous side effects, but the heir was managing to learn the Heavenly Demon Technique.

Sunwu Cho Rin stopped thinking about such things the moment

No Jin Nyung appeared.

“I felt something strange where his Holiness used to be, so I came immediately.”

Cho Ryu Hyang’s face stiffened.

His master was here?

“Master was... here? Did you happen to see a white rabbit as well?”

“Yes, I did.”

“...Damn it!”

How did he miss it?

Cho Ryu Hyang tried thinking of his teacher’s encounter with Maksu.

No matter how much he thought, he couldn’t see their exchange going the right way.

‘I need to hurry.’

Even his teacher would have a problem with Maksu’s power.

Maksu was a monster, after all.

There was no way to beat the thing with pure strength.

Cho Ryu Hyang looked around in agitation.

He could feel the ghosts around him stare at him silently.

Cho Ryu Hyang bit his lips.

‘Now’s not the time to think about these.’

Cho Ryu Hyang activated his Demon Eye.

The eyes that were redder than ever before flew up high into the sky.

The ghosts around him began to react strongly to this red light.

They immediately rushed towards Cho Ryu Hyang.

Uoooh-!

The stains began to stick to Cho Ryu Hyang’s body.

Cho Ryu Hyang didn't dodge them.

Rather, he couldn't dodge them.

Stick-

Ghosts began to stick to Cho Ryu Hyang's body.

Cho Ryu Hyang shuddered at the disgusting feeling and raised the eye ever higher.

His body began to tremble.

He could feel ghosts trying to dig into him.

But Cho Ryu Hyang endured.

'Now's the important part.'

He had never tried to lift the Demon Eye this high up before.

Around the time when Cho Ryu Hyang's face turned pale.

He could see.

An eye similar to his that was spewing out red light.

The moment his eye met with those of his master's.

Cho Ryu Hyang canceled his Demon Eye and fell on the ground.

The strength in his body had left him completely.

“Hah, hah...”

“Are you alright?”

When Sunwu Cho Rin tried to support him,

Cho Ryu Hyang waved her away and stood up by himself.

The annoying things stuck to his body dissipated.

‘What the?’

Sunwu Cho Rin watched as Cho Ryu Hyang brushed his body.

She couldn't see the ghosts, making the entire scene extremely strange.

No Jin Nyung opened his mouth.

“Are you alright?”

“.....”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded silently.

No Jin Nyung opened his mouth.

“If I wasn’t wrong, what you have just shown me was the completed form of the Heavenly Demon Steps.”

Cho Ryu Hyang turned to look at No Jin Nyung.

He could see a flame burning in the man’s eyes.

‘Desire.’

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

“You’re right. This is the completed form.”

The completed form of the Heavenly Demon Steps?

Didn’t this mean that Cho Ryu Hyang learned the completed Heavenly Demon Technique?

‘Is that even possible?’

When Sunwu Cho Rin made a suspicious face,

No Jin Nyung grabbed onto Cho Ryu Hyang’s hands desperately.

“W-would you teach it to me?”

Sunwu Cho Rin looked at No Jin Nyung as if she was looking at a crazy person.

It was the unspoken rule of the martial world to not ask others to teach them their techniques.

‘How does he not even know of something so basic?’

Sunwu Cho Rin didn’t know if Cho Ryu Hyang knew the completed form of the Heavenly Demon Technique.

But regardless of that, asking a person to teach was just wrong.

Cho Ryu Hyang thought for a bit, then opened his mouth.

“I’ll teach you. But before that, I must go somewhere.”

No Jin Nyung nodded.

“I’ll wait.”

He could wait as long as Cho Ryu Hyang wanted.

As long as he could learn the completed form of the Heavenly Demon Technique, he could wait.

Cho Ryu Hyang moved away, leaving the dumbfounded Sunwu Cho Rin behind.

His body was lighter than ever before.

He needed to save his teacher.

Chapter 122. Abyssal Magic

The man in the cave looked extremely messy.

His clothes had turned yellow with time, and the beard on the man's face was extremely messy.

Clack-

The entrance of the cave opened up.

The man inside didn't even bother to look back; however,...

“So you won't even acknowledge me anymore, junior brother?”

“.....”

The person who stepped inside the cave was, surprisingly enough, the man who once was called the strongest of his time.

One of the three sovereigns.

Baek Mu Ryang.

He looked at the dirtied man inside the cave and opened his mouth.

“Are you even eating well? You’re getting me quite worried.”

“.....”

The dirty man didn’t say anything and continued to stare at the wall in front of him.

Baek Mu Ryang walked up and sat next to the man.

“We need you.”

“.....”

The man still did not move.

Baek Mu Ryang slowly opened his mouth.

“The Demon Church already made their move. The Pope himself is out this time. Sichuan has already fallen to them.”

Twitch-

The man’s shoulders twitched slightly.

Baek Mu Ryang saw this and continued to talk.

“I made you go into secluded training because you begged for a punishment, but... by doing this won't bring back someone who's already dead. You should stop.”

The man's eyes shook at Baek Mu Ryang's words.

His mouth opened for the first time.

“.....When?”

“Hm?”

It was a dry, crackly voice.

But his voice carried some sort of heat within it.

“When did the rats of the Demon Church dare crawl out of their hole?”

Paa-!

A powerful aura exploded out of the man's body.

A seemingly impossible amount of power came out of the skinny man.

Baek Mu Ryang nodded.

“You grew. Good.”

The dirty man.

Was Yu Sul Bin.

The man who used to be called the Lion Sword King.

The man who killed Cho Ryu Hyang’s first teacher, Jo Gi Chun.

“Will you go out and face the Demon Church in Sichuan?”

Demon Church!

Those words intensified the emotions in Yu Sul Bin’s eyes.

Hate.

“Ju Sang San... Is that demon that killed my teachers there?”

“He’s there with the Pope.”

“I’ll go.”

Baek Mu Ryang nodded.

“You can’t go alone, though. You need to prepare.”

“How long?”

“A year.”

“Too long.”

“We need that much time to gather up the forces of the Nanman Beast Gate and the North Sea Ice Palace.”

“.....!”

“We decided to take down the Demon Church together. I, too, am planning on moving then.”

Yu Sul Bin showed a face of surprise.

Baek Mu Ryang smiled at this.

“Unfortunately, I don’t think I can take on the Pope alone. I needed help.”

Yu Sul Bin looked at Baek Mu Ryang confusedly.

To think that his confident senior brother would be like this.

He was surprised.

This was the first time he saw his senior brother try to borrow someone else's power.

“Don't look at me like that. This was hard for me as well.”

Yu Sul Bin calmed himself and asked a new question.

“.....Have you finished talking things out with the others?”

“Kind of. They're afraid of the church as well, and...”

Baek Mu Ryang seemed to wonder if he should tell Yu Sul Bin this, then ended up opening his mouth.

“This is a secret, but one more person is planned to assist us when we hunt the Pope.”

Yu Sul Bin became curious.

The person who would be of any help was someone above the harmonious level. In fact, it had to be a person who was almost at the peak of this level.

“Someone from the palace. Chuk Gye Gwang. You probably heard about him before.”

“You mean the great general?”

“Yes, that’s him.”

“.....”

Yu Sul Bin made a dumb face.

While he had been hiding inside this cave, the world had changed greatly.



*

What is strength?

What is power?

The answer to this primitive question had been answered a long time ago.

Baaang-!

Young Gonson Chun Gi. His youthful body rippled violently and made the air scream in pain.

The earth that he kicked shattered away as if a meteor had just hit it.

[Damn monster...]

Gongson Chun Gi grinned at the pestle-wielding rabbit from afar.

He didn't go crazy now despite going all out.

His only weakness was gone.

“Hey, Mr. Rabbit. Stop playing around, will you? I'm getting tired trying to match with you.”

Maksu, the white rabbit, complained loudly to himself.

[I had thought that the glasses kid's teacher would be quite a monster of his own, but...this is too much, isn't it?]

Gongson Chun Gi laughed as he looked down at himself.

He slapped his chest a few times.

“I had this body when I was young but was unable to fully mature

at that time. I was a bit... unrefined. Only that when I finally perfected my skills, my body had become weak. Now that is no longer a problem for me anymore.”

He didn't even need to restrain his power with the bracelets.

The reason for the existence of the rings was to stop him from going insane by his own art.

But that side effect had disappeared. He didn't need the rings anymore.

‘The reason for those rings in the first place was...’

The reason was fairly simple.

He just had too much power.

(E/N: No, you just were disrespectful to the first Pope)

He needed something that could restrain it.

If he didn't, his power would destroy everything near him in his sleep.

[By the way, why are you still here?]

“Hm? What might you be talking about, Mr. Rabbit?”

[Someone like you should have gone up already... Why are you suspending your ascension?]

Gongson Chun Gi made a confused face.

Moments later, however, his face brightened.

“Ah, are you telling me to ascend right now?”

[Yes, you crazy son of a bitch. You shouldn't be here.]

Gongson Chun Gi laughed.

“Life's just got better for me, and I have to go now? You're a bit too much, Don't you think?”

[You... Do you even know about the laws of this world? Your existence itself breaks these laws.]

Gongson Chun Gi smiled.

“Not interested in that Buddhist-type of things. I just want to know one thing right now.”

Gongson Chun Gi pointed at Maksu after saying this.

At the same time, Maksu disappeared from his spot.

Bababang-!

A small hill disintegrated with a loud bang.

Maksu appeared on a different hill.

[You crazy brat... Control yourself.]

He had managed to get away with teleportation, but the man's attacks were something else.

Taking on those attacks with his body like this would injure him greatly.

Maksu looked around for a second, then became confused.

‘Eh? Where did he go?’

The moment he lost Gongson Chun Gi from his sight, his hairs stood on end.

At the same time, he swung his pestle back full force.

Bang-!

Maksu's body flew back like a kite.

“Hoh, that was pretty good.”

Gongson Chun Gi disappeared after saying this.

He was chasing down Maksu to finish the rabbit off.

But once he got to the impact point, he couldn't do anything but raise his eyes.

Maksu wasn't there.

When he slowly turned his head, he could see a muddy rabbit.

Maksu had teleported away at a critical time.

[Damn it...]

His whole body hurt.

Blocking that one hit had damaged him greatly.

He had lost to a human in a contest of strength.

‘Damn it! Damn it!’

He wouldn’t have been humiliated like this if he had his main body’s strength...

He was angry.

He had used the last bits of power facing that glasses kid before.

Maksu thought of excuses in his head and ground his teeth.

He was ashamed of himself for thinking of excuses.

Maksu calmed himself forcefully and looked around for a second. In an instant, he lost sight of Gongson Chun Gi.

That moment.

“Teleportation sure seems convenient.”

He could hear a voice behind him.

Maksu slowly turned back with a frown.

Again, Gongson Chun Gi was looking down on him from behind.

[...Did you just use teleportation?]

Gongson Chun Gi shook his head.

“Don’t know stuff like that.”

[Don’t kid me! How did you catch me, then?!]

“I don’t know? Martial arts has something similar to teleportation. You probably don’t know about it, though?”

[Bastard... I’ll kill you.]

Maksu distanced himself from Gongson Chun Gi and slammed his pestle into the ground.

He realized how he could deal with Gongson Chun Gi.

It was shameful to admit it, but right now, Maksu couldn’t beat Gongson Chun Gi in terms of power.

‘Fine, I admit; I can’t beat him with strength, but...’

Maksu didn’t have just strength.

When he began to prepare for something big by making all sorts of hand and leg motions in front of the pestle, Gongson Chun Gi smiled evilly.

“Oho, magic, is it? I’m down for that.”

He didn’t interfere with Maksu.

Gongson Chun Gi was confident.

Confident in his strength.

He watched Maksu from afar and mumbled to himself.

“Magic, martial arts, they’re all the same thing once you reach the peak with it. What matters most is how much of it you understand. They both yield the same result at the end, after all.”

Vuun-

Maksu didn’t hear Gongson Chun Gi’s words.

He could only focus on his spell.

The pestle in the ground began to send out waves of power out of it.

At the same time, Maksu's body started to glow purple.

Maksu spoke while grinding his teeth.

[This isn't my specialty, but this should still work pretty well against humans.]

Gongson Chun Gi laughed.

“Didn't you just call me inhuman, Mr. Rabbit? You aren't making any sense here.”

[Shut the hell up.]

Kuaaa-!

A purple mass of power engulfed Gongson Chun Gi.

Maksu looked at this with gleaming eyes.

‘Success.’

Chomp, chomp-

The purple energy around Gongson Chun Gi fluctuated in size.

Inside the cloud of purple energy, the demons of hell were munching on Gongson Chun Gi's body.

Unless one had an unbreakable body, no human would be able to survive within that cloud.

Not even bones would be left in there.

Maksu made a satisfactory face as he thought this.

But then.

The cloud of purple rapidly began to shrink.

[Eh?]

Maksu made a confused face.

And....

“Huff!”

Gongson Chun Gi inhaled all the purple cloud around him and smiled at Maksu.

“It has quite a dangerous taste. Got any more?”

[.....]

“Then I guess it’s my turn, then? This actually happens to be my specialty.”

A red eye appeared above Gongson Chun Gi.

“This is an improved version of the Demon Eye, called the Abyssal Eye. I made it myself.”

[...Are you sure you’re human?]

“I don’t even know anymore.”

The smiling eye began to drip with blood.

This eye immediately turned into a giant mouth and swallowed Maksu.

Chapter 123. Gongson Chun Gi's True Strength

Cho Ryu Hyang managed to get there at around the middle of the fight.

Gongson Chun Gi.

Cho Ryu Hyang managed to see how the man destroyed the rabbit.

He also managed to see his master swallowing the rabbit with the giant red eye, then spit it back out.

Cho Ryu Hyang's lips twitched.

‘...Even something like this was possible?’

He knew his master was strong.

After all, the man had the highest number Cho Ryu Hyang had ever seen.

A person like that defeated Maksu that easily?

It was quite shocking.

But he was still able to accept it.

After all, Maksu was far weaker compared to the time he was in his humanoid form.

He could understand that much.

But there was something else that greatly confused Cho Ryu Hyang.

The existence of Gongson Chun Gi.

That itself was the problem.

‘The number changed.’

Cho Ryu Hyang made a confused face as he readjusted his glasses.

Normally, the number above Gongson Chun Gi’s head is 96.

The number had never changed before.

But...

‘97?’

The number Gongson Chun Gi's had changed.

Cho Ryu Hyang was honestly surprised.

‘Are these numbers not fixed?’

The strange numbers above the head.

These were numbers that described the limits of a person's power since birth.

Could something like that be changed?

Cho Ryu Hyang's head was instantly filled with chaos.

But right then.

[Don't think of such useless things, child.]

A voice sounded in his head.

Cho Ryu Hyang opened his eyes widely.

It was Zhuge Liang.

For the first time since forever, the man had finally come to

speaking. Cho Ryu Hyang focused on his words carefully.

He was curious about what Zhuge Liang had been doing up till now, but for now, he was just happy that the man was talking to him again.

[I wasn't trying to interfere with your life if possible, but...since this is really a peculiar case, I'll have to explain things to you a bit.]

Cho Ryu Hyang could feel Zhuge Liang looking at Gongson Chun Gi from inside his space.

Zhuce Liang smirked.

[Some oddballs like that occasionally appear. I've only seen something like this happen twice in my life... It is only a temporary effect.]

'It's temporary?'

[That's right. It'll go back to its former number later. Don't worry too much about that change.]

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

Not all questions were answered, though.

He wanted to know why this happened.

Zhuge Liang answered this immediately.

[Talented people who work much harder than others occasionally show something like this. They overcome the limits that the heavens had set for them and bust right through it. He probably got rid of a problem that he had all his life.]

A problem he had all his life?

Cho Ryu Hyang's eyes shone.

‘So he finally completed his technique.’

[Technique?]

‘Yes, that was his biggest problem.’

His teacher had suffered all this time due to the Shura Environment.

The moment Cho Ryu Hyang listened to Zhuge Liang, he realized that his teacher had overcome the side effect that had existed for a long time purely through strength.

[It is definite that he achieved something; however, I do not

know if this is a result of a martial technique.]

‘It’s probably that. It was master’s biggest problem for a long time.’

[Is that so?]

Zhuge Liang looked at Gongson Chun Gi a little strangely.

There was one thing that he dared not tell Cho Ryu Hyang.

Zhuge Liang hid his thoughts in the darkest parts of his mind.

‘In both of the situations I’ve seen in the past, things didn’t end well for the two individuals.’

There were rules that the heavens had set in this world.

It was unknown who came up with these rules, but they were complex and had absolutely no loopholes.

Zhuge Liang had known about what happened to the two people who broke these rules later in life.

‘This is where I stop, kid.’

Zhuge Liang closed his eyes as he watched the child attempt to

ask him more questions.

He would not interfere.

He would watch.

And that would be what he would do.

*

“I didn’t have this much fun in a long time.”

Gongson Chun Gi said this as he tapped the rabbit below him a few times with his foot.

“Your body’s too hard. It would be quite difficult to kill you.”

It wasn’t like he couldn’t do it, but he didn’t really want to.

Gongson Chun Gi put on his bracelet as he whistled lightly.

He had managed to blast away all the excess energy in his body with this one fight.

How long had it been since he used his power like this?

It was the first time he did this after getting rid of the Shura Environment's side effect.

He felt great.

It felt like he got rid of the poison that his body had.

Gongson Chun Gi lifted Maksu up by the ears and spoke.

“I knew your body wasn't in the best of conditions when I saw you in the first place. That just makes me more excited. How strong would you be when you recover? I want to fight you again.”

[.....]

Maksu was just catching his breath up till now.

But he couldn't help but narrow his eyes when he heard this.

He wasn't speaking, but his eyes clearly seemed to say this.

[Don't be so arrogant, kid. You're nothing if I recover.]

Thankfully, Gongson Chun Gi seemed to understand Maksu well.

He grinned widely and put Maksu next to his chest.

“Can you hear my heart beating? I don’t think I was this excited even when I met my first love. Keke, I’ll wait for you to recover very dearly.”

Maksu scrunched up his nose.

In order to crush a man as powerful as this, he had to recover completely.

Honestly, Maksu wasn’t confident of winning even when he goes through complete recovery.

‘Both the master and the disciple makes me look at humans in a different light.’

Humans were greedy but so weak at the same time.

His thoughts hadn’t changed.

But he had to admit that there were exceptions.

As Maksu complained to himself inside, he glasses boy approached from far away.

The boy was looking at Maksu carefully.

‘Don’t look at me like that, kid.’

The boy probably realized by now.

That he was much weaker than the time he was fighting in his dreams.

“May I take him, master?”

“Sure.”

Gongson Chun Gi gave away Maksu without a second thought.

He was done with the rabbit.

But he was curious about one thing, though.

“Did you put this rabbit next to Ahri on purpose?”

“Yes. I thought he’d do nicely as a bodyguard of sorts.”

Bodyguard?

Well, it was a pretty nice idea.

“Does she know? About the rabbit?”

Cho Ryu Hyang shook his head.

“She doesn’t. She just thinks of it as a rabbit. That was the promise I made with him.”

“Promise? Promise...”

Gongson Chun Gi smiled mysteriously and nodded.

“I get it now.”

“Right.”

Cho Ryu Hyang smiled faintly.

As he thought, his master understood everything in an instant, and to be honest, Gongson Chun Gi knew more about Maksu than Cho Ryu Hyang already.

“These types of things treat promises very carefully. They lose their power if they break it, after all.”

“.....What?”

Lose power?

He hadn't heard of this before.

He just thought that they were beings who kept their promises well.

Gongson Chun Gi made a surprised face.

"Mm? You didn't know?"

Cho Ryu Hyang smiled awkwardly.

He hadn't known.

To be honest, he should have tried to find out why Maksu was so intent on keeping his promise, but he hadn't thought of it before.

Gongson Chun Gi messed up Cho Ryu Hyang's hair as he continued to talk.

"These things don't make promises because there's a chance that they'd lose their power. They only make promises when they feel that they can keep it. I felt that you had formed some kind of a connection with it when you told me you made it promise something."

Connection?

Was that what it was when they made the promise a long time ago?

It didn't really seem like it.

Cho Ryu Hyang looked down at Maksu awkwardly.

He hadn't realized the weight of the promise was so heavy on Maksu.

He felt a little sorry for Maksu because of this, so he held Maksu a little more carefully and spoke.

"He clearly became a lot weaker than before."

"Of course."

Gongson Chun Gi was able to see just how much power the rabbit had from the start.

The rabbit was supposed to be ten times as strong as it currently was, from what Gongson Chun Gi saw.

'That's what makes this so sad.'

Gongson Chun Gi thought for a second before speaking again.

“A long time ago, I met a strange old man in a dream who told me about the heavenly rules in the world.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

It was something that Buddhists often spoke of.

“He was an arrogant old man. What was it? Causing something will always lead to results? I suppose he’s right, but that’s not exactly how the world works.”

Was there something else?

Gongson Chun Gi grinned playfully.

“There also needs to be the ‘process’ that needs to be included. The world doesn’t work with causes and effects alone. That is a very dangerous thought.”

Process.

This came very strongly to Cho Ryu Hyang.

“I completed my technique. Well, I did that a long time ago, in fact, I just got rid myself of that side effect.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

His master was now complete.

Free from the side effect.

“There should be no one who can ever beat me in the martial world. This is the effect I got.”

“.....”

Gongson Chun Gi opened his hands and smiled.

“The process I had to go through before coming here it was extremely difficult.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

He could tell how much work Gongson Chun Gi had gone through to get here.

“Disciple.”

“Yes, master.”

“Strength is always right no matter how evil or unjustified it is.”

“.....”

“This is the result of the monster called the Martial World. I hope you think of the process of your journey before you complete it.”

Cho Ryu Hyang nodded.

“I shall remember that.”

“Good. That’s my disciple.”

Cho Ryu Hyang blinked.

At this moment, Gongson Chun Gi seemed to become transparent for a second.

‘Am I seeing things wrong?’

Cho Ryu Hyang looked at his glasses carefully in surprise.

